FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 MAY 1986

Syria

The Foreign Ministry informed the British ambassador 11 May of Syria's decision to "withdraw" three British diplomats from Syria in response to Britain's decision to "withdraw" three Syrian diplomats from London, Damascus radio reported. The radio said the Syrians were being expelled from London "without any objective justification" and despite the fact that the Syrian Embassy had agreed to allow the diplomats to be questioned by British police in the Syrian Embassy building as Syria is "firmly convinced" that its diplomats are innocent of charges against them. In a related commentary cited by SANA, *TISHRIN* viewed Britain's deportation of the three Syrian diplomats as part of a U.S.-led "campaign" against the Arab nation under the "pretext" of combating terrorism. The British Foreign Office, however, stated that the three Syrians had to be expelled because Syria's unwillingness to waive their diplomatic immunity would have prevented a full investigation of the charges against them, according to PRESS ASSOCIATION, which subsequently cited the Foreign Office's condemnation of Syria's "unjustified and regrettable" tit-for-tat expulsions from Damascus.

In Israel, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres told the Cabinet 11 May that Israel will do everything in its power to prevent a war with Syria, but he said the world must do everything to put an end to Syria's involvement in international terrorism. In remarks broadcast by IDF radio, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said Israel has information that Syria's decision to perpetrate a terrorist act against an El Al plane was not made at a low level, but was "worked out and implemented under the responsibility of an authoritative Syrian body." However, Rabin stressed Israel's intention to prevent and deter any military confrontation with Syria, and *THE JERUSALEM POST* reported earlier that Israel has asked the United States to reassure the Syrians that Israel has no military intentions against them.

Nevertheless, a 10 May Damascus radio commentary warned of "current Israeli military preparations" near the Israeli-syrian contact lines. As for Syria's military capability, the UAE paper *AL-ITTIHAD reported 12 May that the Soviet Union has* agreed to supply Syria with MiG-29 and MiG-31 aircraft, according to WAKH. President Hafiz al-Asad asked for MiG-31's during a "secret visit" to Moscow in February, the report said, and the Soviet Union had already agreed to deliver MiG-29's this year.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi military spokesman reported 9 May on a "wide-scale" Iraqi offensive inside Iran in the East Maysan sector that succeeded in capturing an approximately 100 square km area, according to INA, while an Iraqi military source told INA 10 May that an Iranian counterattack in the same area was repulsed. On the other hand, a military report cited by Tehran radio claimed that over 3,000 Iraqis were killed or wounded 9-10 May in the Faqqeh sector in a failed Iraqi offensive, claiming that over 200 Iraqi tanks, personnel carriers, and other vehicles were destroyed. Iranian air strikes over that sector were reported over the weekend by IRNA and Tehran radio.

In other action, at least 100 casualties were inflicted upon Iraqi forces in the southern Majnun Island and in Hawr al-Huwayzah, according to a 9 May military report cited by IRNA. On Iraq's part, a military source informed INA that the V Army Corps launched an offensive in the northern sector 10 May resulting in the capture of several traverses and vantage points, and "massive" Iranian losses.

As for Iraqi air activity, Iraqi military statements cited by INA announced fresh raids against Khark Island and a "large maritime target" in the Gulf 12 May. An 11 May communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio reported Iraqi air strikes on Iran's Agha Jari and Marun oil fields, while the 9 May communique claimed the destruction of 5 Iranian bridges and an Iranian command center. An Iranian communique cited by IRNA asserted that an Iraqi plane was downed over the Gulf 11 May, but an Iraqi military spokesman termed this claim "sheer lies" in a statement to INA the same day.

Libya

Relations With Spain — The Libyan People's Bureau in Madrid issued a communique 9 May denying the Spanish Government's accusations that the bureau's consul general has been in contact with an extreme right-wing Spanish officer, Madrid radio reported. The accusations against the Libyan diplomat, who was expelled from Spain, were viewed by the Bureau as part of the EEC's "aggressive" measures against Libya. However, a Spanish Government spokesman cited by the radio said the consul general was involved in activities carried out by a Spanish colonel aimed at "turning back the political clock" in Spain. The colonel, who is now under arrest, also visited Tripoli to seek financial help from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the spokesman said. However, the radio subsequently cited the Spanish foreign minister's view that the expelled consul general's involvement with the Spanish extreme rightists is "completely isolated" and that Spain's accusations are not levelled directly against the Libyan Government.

Political/Economic Situation — An 11 May JANA commentary strongly denied a recent report by the Abu Dhabi paper *AL-ITTIHAD on the Libyan power structure. Noting the paper's* claim that the Revolution Command Council is likely to be expanded in accordance with an increase in the power of the military at the expense of the revolutionary committees, JANA maintained that such "false stories" are the result of the "sick imagination" of *AL-ITTIHAD*'s correspondent, who is one of those journalists who use their job as a "cover-up for their work for the CIA." As for the economic situation, a Libyan official stated during a visit to Tehran that the departure of U.S. oil companies from Libya would have "no effect whatsoever" on Libyan oil operations, IRNA reported. In Kuwait, a senior Libyan oil official likewise maintained that Libya will have "no problem" if the U.S. companies pull out, KUNA noted.

Reaction to Al Qadhdhafi Speech — Responding to the threats against Egypt contained in Col al-Qadhdhafi's 8 May speech, a 10 May Cairo radio commentary declared that Al-Qadhdhafi's "babble" will fail to disturb Egypt, which views his statements as "mere bluster." The Italian prime minister condemned Al-Qadhdhafi's "fanatical language" against Italy in remarks reported by Rome radio.

Lebanon

Extremist Islamic organizations have moved some of their foreign hostages to locations outside Ba'labakk, Voice of Lebanon radio disclosed 11 May. Beirut's *AL-SAFIR* reported the previous day that sources close to Syria and Iran have spoken of an "imminent" solution to the hostages problem, adding that some sources have said an agreement has been reached over the French hostages, with only the implementation and timing still to be settled.

In another development, Voice of Lebanon radio announced that Halat Airport was again shelled from the north when President Amin al-Jumayyil returned from his trip to Tunisia 9 May. An Army Command statement warned of the consequences of such attacks, the radio noted, and former President Camille Sham'un again blamed the Syrians for the shelling. The other main Christian radio, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, reported that the Syrians have taken tough measures against the Islamic Unification Movement in Tripoli on account of the latter's alleged links with the Muslim Brotherhood. In a subsequent development, the Voice of Lebanon reported that a "catastrophe" was narrowly averted in East Beirut 12 May when a car-bomb was found and defused.

Jordanian-Egyptian Talks

King Husayn met with President Husni Mubarak in Aqaba 11 May for talks on bilateral relations and current international and regional issues, according to Amman television. After the two rounds of talks, Mubarak praised Husayn as a "brother," MENA noted, while the Jordanian king said the discussions had covered issues of concern to all Arabs.

Qatar-Bahrain

Qatari aircraft and naval vessels have violated Bahrain's airspace and waters in recent days, Manama's *GULF DAILY NEWS* reported 12 May, noting that these incidents came amid fresh reports that Qatar will shortly release the foreign workers it captured on Fasht al-Dibal island.

Sudan

Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the southern political parties have reached an "acceptable formula" on their representation in the new government, according to an Al-Ummah National Party official cited by SUNA 10 May. Southern representation in the government will be in accordance with the size of the southern population as defined in the latest census, the agency noted in a related report on the agreement.

DRA

AFP reported a series of demonstrations in Kabul "last week" against PDPA General Secretary Najibullah, according to "diplomatic sources" in Islamabad. The sources, who admitted not all of the reports could be verified, said that student demonstrators chanted slogans against Najibullah and in favor of Revolutionary Council President Babrak Karmal. Nevertheless, both Najibullah and Karmal attended a function commemorating the Soviet Army's defeat of Germany in World War II, according to BAKHTAR.

As for the "counterrevolutionaries," 1,800 members of the Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami and the Nejat-e Mil-e bands "joined" the state in Faryab Province, Kabul radio reported, adding that 14 other members of the former band also "joined" the state security forces in Bagram District. In another report on rebel defections, the radio stated that 23 Enqelab-e Eslami members and 8 Hezb-e Eslami members recently "joined" the security forces in Farah Province. Kabul radio also reported that 42 rebels of Enqelab-e Eslami were captured in Balkh Province, according to a security forces source.

DRA-Pakistan

A spokesman of the Pakistani delegation at the talks with the DRA in Geneva reported 9 May on "marginal progress on certain minor issues," according to Karachi radio, but he claimed that Afghanistan's "approach" to the talks was neither positive nor flexible.

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Arab League Envoy Views 'Hostile' U.S. Actions

LD091508 Kuwait KUNA in English 1935 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Washington May 8 (KUNA) — The representative of the League of Arab States in the United States Clovis Mahsud expressed here Thursday "deep concern and dismay" by the Arabs over a series of hostile actions and statements by both the U.S. Administration and Congress in the recent days.

At the same time Mahsud issued what he described as (?transitional) plea to the United States to halt a "drifting towards the brink" in its relations with the Arab world, expressing a belief in the existence of "a corrective" within the U.S. political body for the current situation.

Mahsud pointed to the U.S. attack on Libya last month, the signing of a U.S.-Israeli secret agreement on corporation in the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) this week and statements by the administration attempting to implicate Syria in terrorist acts.

He also pointed to the vote in Congress this week against a modest U.S. arms sale to Saudi Arabia, a previous refusal to contemplate military sales to Jordan and moves "under way" to force the administration to "renege" on the already approved sale of AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia.

Mahsud, who is also the observer of the Arab League at the United Nations, referred to attempts in the Congress to push for measures to criminalize the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"Since the U.S. air strikes against Libya in mid-April, we have been sandwiched between the Reagan administration's intensifying rhetoric on terrorism, which appears aimed at Arabs in general, and the U.S. Congress' clear attempt to subordinate U.S. policy in the Middle East to Israel's agenda," Mahsud said.

Asked by KUNA whether the Arab League was contemplating any practical measures against the United States if it does not respond to its plea, Mahsud said, "my plea is a transitional plea in the sense that we are seeking to bring back the rationality that we think has eluded much of the recent developments in U.S.-Arab relations in general.

"The plea is made in the hope that it will elicit some sort of response. Otherwise if we talk about measures, that means we are preempting the consequences of a plea," he added.

Maksud also said, "the plea is not done in a vacuum. We do believe there is a corrective that has been silenced and disfunctioned by the charged rhetorical atmosphere which might be transitional. If it is going to become a pattern, naturally the consequences are not going to be what either we or the United States would like in the Middle East."

Asked what consequences does he fear, the Arab League representative said "I don't want to envsiage them. I hope I don't have to."

Maksud blamed Israel and its backers in the U.S. Congress and different layers of the administration for "setting the agenda and the terms of reference about what constitutes a terrorist act or not" and for "blurring the distinction between legitimate resistance and acts of terrorism."

He said Israel and its supporters in this country are "irresponsibly" pushing for measures to criminalize the PLO, "thus further undermining any possibility of a U.S. role in the Middle East peace, which can only be achieved with the participation of the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people."

Maksud warned that Israeli attempts to incriminate Syria in "terrorist acts" aim at paving the way for attacking the Arab country.

"Israel is now seeking to foment U.S. anger against Syria while contemplating a military attack against that major Arab country," he said.

The Arab League representative pointed to a statement by Vice President George Bush this week in which he stated that the U.S. Administration is "convinced that Syria's fingerprints have been on terrorist acts."

Mahsud criticized "the ease with which condemnations and accusations are being made" and questioned the U.S. Administration's assertments that it had irrefutable evidence that implicates Libya in the bombing of the West Berlin's night club.

He said it was "like going on a fishing trip. Sometimes accusing Libya, sometimes accusing Syria with evidence that is definitely refutable, apparently."

Mahsud asked, "if the evidence on Libya connection in Berlin is irrefutable, then why is it now Syria being accused intermittently."

The Arab League representative called on the United States to take its evidence to the International Court of Justice and the United Nations' Security Council.

On the signing of the SDI agreement between Washington and Tel Aviv, Mahsud cautioned that while the United States would want to keep the search phase well into the 1990s, the Israelis seek to deploy a variation of new weapons much sooner as it claims to protect military sites from medium range missiles.

Also he cautioned that Israel is thinking of taking certain high speed guns which the United States is studying as potential space weapons and strapping them into tanks.

Mahsud criticized the "double standard congressmen" who oppose the administration's SDI program "but then when it comes to Israel, they are very permissive."

Fatah's Khalaf Says Israel To Strike at Syria

GF110826 Doha QNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Dubayy, 11 May (QNA) — Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee, has asserted that the Palestinian leadership has obtained information from reliable special international sources concerning the possibility that the Israeli enemy will direct a military strike against Syria within days.

In a statement published today in the Dubayy newspaper *AL-BAYAN* he said that the same sources which informed the Palestinian leadership of the invasion of Lebanon in the summer of 1982 provided the PLO leadership with new information concerning preparations for the Zionist aggression, which might be restricted to the Lebanese Al-Biqa' area or might include the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

Khalaf Announces Algerian Invitation to Palestinians

Groups Invited To Meet

JN091811 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic
1720 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, has announced that Algerian officials will extend an invitation to all Palestinian groups during the 2d week of blessed Ramadan to meet in Algiers to strengthen Palestinian national unity. In a press conference held in Tunis last night, he said: This meeting will be held with an open agenda to discuss all the issues that might be raised in preparation for convening a session of the PNC. He appealed to all the Palestinian revolution groups to seize this opportunity to contribute to this meeting's success. He also appealed to all the Arab forces which can contribute to the success of this meeting to exert their utmost efforts.

Brother Abu Iyad said that he met with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil during his visit to Tunisa and that they discussed the situation in the Arab region, particularly the Palestine question and the situation in Lebanon. He added that the Lebanese president stressed that Lebanon recognizes the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole represntative.

Welcomes Bendjedid Initiative

LD092201 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of Fatah Central Committee, yesterday held a press conference in Tunis, in which he talked about a number of issues, especially the fact that Fatah welcomes the Algerian initiative, launched by President Bendjedid, to hold a unifying conference in Algeria for detachments of the Palestinian resistance. Regarding this issue, brother Abu Iyad said that this initiative is a valuable opportunity for opening a dialogue which would lead to closing the ranks, especially during this critical period for the Arab nation. He added that Fatah, which warmly welcomes this initiative, appeals to the brothers of the other detachments to respond to this initiative for the sake of the higher interest of the Palestinian revolution, for the sake of closing ranks, and to make the beginning of the blessed month of Ramadan an opportunity for commencing the unifying march.

Brother Abu Iyad stressed that he has information and confirmations that well-known Arab countries are behind the delay in the commencement of this dialogue because they exert pressure on the detachments on their territories in order to obstruct them from [word indistinct] the Palestinian legitimacy represented by the leaderships of Fatah and the PLO. Brother Abu Iyad pointed out that a number of detachments, including the DFLP, the Palestinian Communist Party, the Arab Liberation Front, and the Palestinain Liberation Front, have aggreed in principle to this initiative.

He also pointed out that the conditions presented by the PFLP are incompatible with the achievement of the Palestinian national unity.

Concerning his meeting with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil in Tunisia, brother Abu Iyad confirmed that the meeting was positive, and that it included a discussion of a number of issues of joint interest, especially the deteriorating situation in the Palestinian camps in the light of fascist and Zionist aggression. He added that President al-Jumayyil confirmed his government's stand supporting the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. They also discussed the issue of renewing Lebanese-Palestinian travel documents for those who reside in Lebanon but are currently in a number of Arab countries.

Touching on UN Security Council Resolution No 242, which is rejected by the PLO, brother Abu Iyad appealed to all Arab countries to reject this resolution, which considers the issue of the Palestinian people only as an issue of refugees.

PLO's Al-Wazir on Foreign Ties, Fighters in Lebanon

Ties With Syria, USSR

NC092138 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2032 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Beirut, 9 May (MENA) — Khalil al-Wazir, Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has confirmed that contacts between the PLO and Jordan are continuing. He denied the presence of any link between the suspension of PLO-Jordanian coordination and the Jordanian-Syrian rapprochement, stressing that this rapprochement is not at the expense of the Palestinians.

Abu Jihad added that contacts have been held between Syria and the PLO through mediators but no practical or tangible steps have been reached so far to restore relations.

In an interview with *AL-USBU' AL-'ARABI* magazine, to be published Saturday, Abu Jihad spoke on the PLO's relations with the Soviet Union. He said that understanding between the Soviet Union and the PLO has recently taken several steps forward and has turned the page on lukewarm relations that prevailed for more than 2 years.

The Palestinian official further said that the katyusha rockets being fired on the Galilee area are a message to Israel that strikes will continue against Israel until the right to self-determination guaranteed by an international conference is achieved.

Regarding relations with Lebanon, Abu Jihad stressed the PLO's adherence to the Cairo agreement. He described this agreement as a document of coexistence between the revolution and the state. He said: We reject any interference in Lebanese affairs but we are committted to the stand of self-defense and of protecting our camps from any attack. He added that Palestinian fighters have returned through Lebanese airports and harbors, and across the borders with Syria.

Fighters Returning to Lebanon

JN091638 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1600 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, assistant commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has stated to *MAGAZINE*, which is published in Beirut, that many fighters who left Lebanon during the Israeli invasion of 1982 have returned to the Palestinian camps in Lebanon upon explicit orders of the PLO leadership. Abu Jihad affirmed that all these fighters had returned legitimately via Beirut airport or port or the Syrian-Lebanese borders carrying genuine and legal passports and documents.

'Enemy' Observation Post in Gaza Strip Attacked

JN071838 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic
1720 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] A military spokesman for the Palestinian revolution forces general command has stated the following:

In accordance with instructions, one of our combat groups operating inside the occupied homeland threw hand grenades and incendiary bombs at an observation post of the enemy's army near Jabaliya camp in the occupied Gaza Strip yesterday. The post was severely damaged and a number of enemy personnel were either killed or wounded. Immediately after the operation, the Zionist security forces rushed to the scene, besieged it, closed the roads leading to it, imposed a curfew on Jabaliya camp, began large-scale search campaigns, and arrested many citizens in the camp on the pretext of being connected with the operation. Despite these repressive measures, our combat group, after carrying out its combat mission, managed to successfully withdraw from the scene of the operation. Revolution until victory!

[Signed] The Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command.

Joint Resistance Clashes With ASL Forces Near Sidon

JN091915 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic
1720 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] The men of the Palestinian nationalist Lebanese joint forces and the militias of the so-called army of southern Lebanon have exchanged artillery and machinegun fire east of Sidon in southern Lebanon. This came in reports from southern Lebanon. The reports add that several shells landed around the city, causing heavy material losses. The reports also say that the men of the joint forces earlier launched a rocket attack against a position jointly held by the Zionist occupation forces and their agent militais in the Al-Dallashah area in the eastern sector. Machineguns and rockets were used in the attack which lasted 20 minutes. The reports do not mention casualties.

BAHRAIN

Further Reports on Bahraini-Qatari Tensions

Workers 'Suspended' in Qatar

GF110520 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 11 May 86 p 1

[Text] Hundreds of Bahraini workers employed in Qatar have been suspended in the wake of the invasion of Fasht al-Dibal island.

And some Bahraini students in Qatar have been thrown out of colleges and deported.

An official source in Bahrain yesterday confirmed the action against Bahrainis had taken place shortly after Qatari forces invaded Fasht al-Dibal.

Thirty men taken prisoner in the April 26 action were, according to Qatari press reports, due to be released yesterday but this did not take place.

Diplomatic sources in Qatar said they had ready access to the men but the situation remained the same as it had done for the last two weeks.

Meanwhile in Bahrain, the government's policy of restraint was being maintained in the face of provocative action in Qatar.

"We are dealing with a straightforward case of a country holding hostage innocent workers against their will," said an official source.

"We have gone out of our way to make it the first priority to release these people, but to no avail. Anyone who works in Bahrain is protected by the government.

"We have received messages at the highest level from all over the Gulf commending the tremendous restraint being exhibited by Bahrain during this crisis."

Airspace Violations Reported

GF120518 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 12 May 86 p 2

[Text] Qatari Navy vessels have been involved in 'provocative action' inside Bahrain's territorial waters since their troops invaded Fasht al-Dibal.

And well-informed sources have told the GDN Qatari aircraft have had to be asked to leave Bahrain's airspace after entering without permission.

Civilian aircraft are also being affected by the continuing dispute with a request from Qatar that aircraft should not fly over the north of the country due to 'military flying activities'.

News of Qatar's breaches of Bahraini water and airspace came amid fresh reports that Qatar was poised to release some of the 30 workers they have held captive since April 26 when the tiny island was over-run.

REUTERS reported from the Dutch capital, The Hague, that 17 of the captives would be set free.

The Dutch Foreign Ministry was told by Qatar that two Britons and a Dutchman being held would be among those released, the agency said.

The other captives include 25 Filipinos and two Thais — all Ballast Nedam employees.

Last night, Dutch envoy Willem Smeets was due back in Doha, but an embassy spokesman in Kuwait said they knew nothing of plans to release the workers.

Foreign Minister Returns From Saudi Arabia

GF101708 Manama WAKH in English 1645 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Manama, May 10 (WAKH) — Bahrain's Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah returned home today from Jeddah after a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia. Shaykh Muhammad conveyed a message to H.M. King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia from H.H. the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah concerning current developments in the region. The Gulf News Agency learned that Shaykh Muhammad is carrying a message from the Saudi monarch to H.H. the Amir of Bahrain.

KUWAIT

Oil Minister Describes Talks With Egyptians

GF101711 Manama WAKH in English 1640 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Kuwait, May 10 (WAKH) — Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Adhbi described his Cairo talks with Egyptian officials as positive. In a statement to Kuwaiti daily *AL-ANBA'* Shaykh 'Ali said the Egyptian officials expressed readiness to cooperate. Egyptian officials said they were willing to bring down daily production despite their country's economic difficulties, the minister said to the paper.

The question is not about quantity of production but rather about revenues from such production, the minister noted, adding that curring down production would improve prices. Asked to comment on reports that Egypt did not export any amount of crude oil in the second half of last April, he said that the halt was due to its oils high prices but following a cut down in prices, the exports returned to normal.

The minister underlined that Egypt and Sante Fe International, owned by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, cooperate in exploring for oil in the Gulf of Suez and production will tentatively start by the end of this year. Eighteen oil rigs are currently working in offshore and onshore fields, Shaykh 'Ali said, adding that Kuwait sells Egypt half a million tons of petrochemical products annually.

Shaykh 'Ali returned home Friday following a two-day visit to Cairo during which he discussed issues concerning the oil market situation with Egyptian Oil Minister 'Abd al-Hadi Qandi.

U.S. Criticized for Halting Arms Sales to Saudis

GF101713 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 10 May 86

[Excerpt] Manama, May 10 (WAKH) — A Kuwaiti daily newspaper lashed out Saturday at the U.S. policies in the Middle East saying Washington is unable to play a balanced or positive role toward realizing a settlement in the region. *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* in an editorial said that shortly after the agreement reached by the big seven industrial countries to take economic, political and diplomatic measures against one or more Arab countries, the U.S. Congress has blocked an arms deal to Saudi Arabia.

The congress decision, according to the paper, was another blow to the U.S. credibility and an outright bias in favour of Israel which remains the sole Mideast friend of the U.S. The newspaper expressed belief that Washington could have played a positive role in the Middle East if it was friends with both the Arabs and Israel and not one of the two. It is clear that the U.S. administration is not willing to realize a settlement in the area but is pushing for new wars and confrontations, it charged.

U.S. Israeli Mideast 'Scenarios' Analyzed

LD101635 Kuwait KUNA in English 0822 GMT 10 May 86

["M.E. Scenarios: A KUNA Analysis" — KUNA Headline; by Raphael Calis]

[Text] Washington, May 10 (KUNA) — It first starts as a scenario in Washington's corridors of power, within the realms of academia, and gradually filters its way through the media. But usually, it does not take long before such a theoretical scenario becomes a reality — fact rather than fiction. Right now, a new scenario is in the making both in Washington and in occupied Jerusalem. This time it is not focussed on Lebanon and not Libya but rather on the so-called "real possibility" of a major confrontation between Syria and Israel. There is talk of an Israeli "preemptive strike" against Syria, a so-called Israeli attempt to nip Syrian power in the bud before its ever-growing military prowess makes it a so-called serious threat to Israel and before it can become the Arab world's power supreme.

Just like in previous scenarios — which eventually propelled governments into action — the excuses for action are abundant. The justifications are gradually built up to such a degree that eventually they easily become convincing to those in power — if any conviction is needed. Remember "terrorism" — The sole obsession of the Reagan administration and its main architect George Shultz? Years of preparation, studies, scenarios, debates, and analyses preceded the current "terrorism mania" in Washington before it was adopted as the U.S. Government's No. 1 Foreign policy priority issue. And, of course, Libya became a suitable target. It is a small state and a small player that poses little threat to a superpower like the United States. It can be bullied and squeezed without much of a whimper.

There is justification to believe that the current scenario being mulled over in Washington and occupied Jerusalem's corridors of power could very well become a reality in the not too distant future. It would simply involve a change in target (Syria) with a new actor (Israel instead of the U.S.). The current tune that is being played sounds familiar to to old Middle East hands accustomed to the preparations that precede another act of aggression against the Arabs.

The current scenario states explictly that Syria cannot be allowed to grow any stronger as it might pose a serious threat to Israel in the not too distant future. It is irrelevant, of course, if Syria denies any such intentions. It is equally irrelevant if the experts know for sure that Syria can never be a serious threat (and fully realizes its own limitations) as long as the U.S. continues to be Israel's unconditional supplier and backer and as long as Egypt is out of the military power game. The present scenario proves that this is an ideal time for Israel to attack and, as in the past, get away with it scott free.

American public opinion has proved fully behind President Reagan's action against Libya — the talk about the supposed terrorist threat from Libya prior, during, and after the attack made sure of that. In addition, the U.S. Congress — always an important element in the scenario — is so anti-Arab in its current frame of mind — as *THE WASHINGTON POST* so rightly put it on Friday — that Israel will not have to fear a backlash in the form of aid cuts or political pressures. (The present scenario opts to omit the fact that even after its invasion of Lebanon, no measures were taken against Israel by the U.S. Congress or administration.)

The U.S., of course, finds it risky to take any action against Syria because of its strong link with the Soviet Union. The present scenario states that Syria is not Libya. In other words, Washington is not so sure this time round that if it attacks Syria, this will not precipitate a confrontation with the Russians. Hence, what more convenient than to delegate such a mission to Israel, swap roles. Israel can afford to take the rap of world opinion and the U.S. will be there to offer it all the military, diplomatic, and political backing that it will need after such an operation.

The well-orchestrated buildup to pave the way for an Israeli aggression against Syria is all there in the making at present. Witness the leaks (obviously originating from Israeli intelligence) that Syria is reinforcing its position in the Al-Biqa' valley along the so-called Red Line, the movements and building up of forces along the Golan Heights, and the increased flow of sophisticated Soviet arms to the Syrian port of Latakia.

Then, of course, there is the mounting campaign aimed at implicating Syria with the people behind the West Berlin nightclub explosion and the aborted El Al bombing attempt. Again, it becomes irrelevant that Syria categorically denies any such role and it is irrelevant that none of the European governments have so far submitted any proof of such allegations.

The Israeli scenario assumes, perhaps rightly so, that such an alleged involvement by Syria will ensure that the Europeans will join hands with the Americans in blessing a sweeping aggression against Syria. After all, is that not the message that came across from the Tokyo summit — that the NATO allies and Japan will work together to fight terrorism from wherever it originates?

An aggression against Syria, according to the present scenario, fits very well with both Washington and Tel Aviv's grand designs in the region. That only leaves Syria as the major stumbling bloc to the achievement of the grand joint American-Israeli designs in the Middle East region.

Israel, like Washington, is not happy with Syria's mounting close association with Jordan. Israel, like Washington, is unhappy with the strong influence that Syria enjoys in Lebanon, especially in the south of that war-torn country. And Israel, like Washington, never forgave Syria's crucial role in foiling the May 17 agreement between Israel and Lebanon — the branchild of Secretary of State George Shultz. And, of course, despite statements to the contrary, an Israeli strike against Syria would fit in very well with the domestic political situation in Israel.

Labor's Premier Shim'on Peres would definitely get the support of Yitzhaq Shamir, leader of the Likud in any such action against Syria. And a victory in Syria would allow Peres to hold general elections and ensure the continuation of his premiership well beyond next October when he is due to hand over power to his Likud coalition partner Shamir. Once ensured of continuity, Peres would then be able to dedicate his effort once again to seeking a political settlement with Jordan or any new and alternative Palestinian leadership on the West Bank. It is perhaps within this context that many in Washington have looked at Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Washington this last week.

Ostensibly and for public consumption, Rabin was here to sign the Strategic Defense Initiative (?agreement) between the United States and Israel. But beyond that, not one word was discussed about his lengthy meetings with U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger or the subejcts that were discussed. But, according to the same scenario circulated here, it was not coincidental that talk about the possibility of an Israeli pre-emptive strike against Syria started to emerge in both the Israeli and American press during Rabin's talks here. Nor was it coincidental that the linkage between Syria and those held for the West Berlin nightclub attack and the (?El Al London) attempt started to surface in Europe at about the same time.

The way, once again, was being paved for the world to start accepting the idea of yet another aggression against an Arab country. And, like in previous scenarios which turned into realities, a so-called disinformation campaign started to emerge in the American and Israeli media.

American officials said they still were convinced that Libya was behind the Berlin explosion but in the same breath they noted that Syria was, (?anyway), on their list of "terrorist countries" together with Libya and Iran. And Israel's Prime Minister Shim'on Peres immediately issued denials that Israel was planning an attack on Syria. Israel's U.N. ambassador claimed that the whole origin of these claims came from a newspaper in the Gulf.

It was still fresh in the minds of many who scrutinize the Washington scenarios that only three days before the American attack on Libya last month, a major T.V. network, ABC news, started its evening news broadcast by stating categorically that the Reagan administration has now decided not to carry out any military attack against Libya in retaliation for the Berlin explosion. Three days later, American planes were bombing military and civilian sites in Libya.

PDRY

USSR Mediates for Conflicting PDRY Factions

GF091625 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 8 May 86 p 8

[Report by Muhammad Sa'id Dalbah]

[Text] Informed Arab sources have revealed to *AL-WATAN* that the Soviet Union is mediating for reconciliation between the two major streams of the YSP — "the stream which is currently in power, and the one which fought alongside 'Ali Nasir Muhammad."

The sources say that the mediation is currently carried out by a delegation of the CPSU Central Committee, which arrived in Aden in April, and is aimed at strengthening the domestic front in the PDRY vis-a-vis YSP opponents who found in the fighting which took place in January 1986 a suitable opportunity to destroy the YSP'S authority and to strike at all its streams.

AL-WATAN's sources add that the delegation has been charged by the Soviet leadership to make full and profound studies of the conditions of the YSP and the true causes of its internal conflict and the means to avoid them in future for the sake of guaranteeing the party's unity and strengthening its authority.

The sources say that for this purpose the delegation is still in Aden and is making intensive efforts to convene a unifying YSP congress. It had been hoped that the congress would be held in May.

PDRY authorities and Soviet sources are imposing a blackout on the delegation's mission and its continued activities, which are taking place in secret as a guarantee for success.

AL-WATAN has learned that the contacts are aimed at restoring the YSP's unity without the return of former PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad; there are conflicting reports on his whereabouts. Sanaa and Addis Ababa are considered probable locations.

AL-WATAN's sources believe that a reconciliation has become possible as a result of the intensive efforts by Moscow, and because of the death of the principle symbols of the stream opposed to the former chairman, namely 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il and 'Ali 'Antar, in addition to 'Ali Nasir's departure from power. The figures who assumed control of the party and state in Aden following the cessation of the hostilities which erupted on 13 January 1986, are not known to be obstinate or intransigent, and the alliance they established with 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il and 'Ali 'Antar was transitional.

YSP Secretary Receives GDR Party Delegation

GF101716 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 May 86

[Excerpt] Brother Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member of the YSP Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, met in his office today with Dr Trappen, deputy director of the international relations committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Central Committee, who is visiting the PDRY as head of a party delegation. During the meeting, they reviewed a number of issues of mutual interest which link the friendly parties and countries.

QATAR

Further on Detention of Construction Workers

Foreigners To Be Freed

NC101306 Paris AFP in English 1258 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Doha, May 10 (AFP) — Thirty employees of a Dutch construction firm abducted by Qatar military forces on April 26 from the tiny gulf islet of Fasht al-Dibal may be released Saturday, press reports here said. The 30, working for the Ballast Nedam company on a Bahraini military construction project, were taken by helicopter in a sovereignty dispute over the islet, which is claimed by both Bahrain and Qatar.

The Qatar daily newspaper, *AL-RAYA*, quoting a Qatar military source, said the decision to release the workers "demonstrates Qatar's willingness and concern to preserve its good relations with the countries from which the 30 expatrites come." Diplomats working for the release of the 25 Filipinos, two Britons, two Thais and one Dutchman said they could not confirm the report.

Release Hoped 'Today or Tomorrow'

GF111614 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1415 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 May (WAM) — Well-informed sources in Bahrain have said that Saudi mediation between Bahrain and Qatar concerning Fasht al-Dibal has succeeded in convincing Qatari authorities to free the Filipino and Thai workers as well as two British and a Netherlands engineer. The newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* stated that they all were expected to arrive in Bahrain yesterday. However, for unknown reasons they were not released. The sources hoped that they would be released either today or tomorrow, the paper added.

Foreign Workers Released

NC120948 Paris AFP in English 0941 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Manama, May 12 (AFP) — Thirty employees of a Dutch company who were abducted by Qatar military forces April 26 from the tiny Gulf islet of Fasht al-Dibal were released Monday and were en route to Bahrain, Dutch diplomatic sources said here. The 30, working for the Ballast Nedam Company on a Bahraini military construction project, were taken by Qatar military helicopters in a sovereignty dispute over the islet, which is claimed by both Bahrain and Qatar. They included 25 Filipinos, two Britons, two Thais and one Dutchman.

SAUDI ARABIA

Libyan Petroleum Official Departs 9 May

GF091507 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1405 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Jeddah, 9 May (SPA) — Fawzi al-Shakshuki, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Petroleum and Planning, left Jeddah today following a visit to the Kingdom during which he delivered a verbal message to His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from His Excellency Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. He was seen off at the airport by Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and cabinet member, and a representative of the royal protocol.

Defense Minister on U.S. Arms, Oil Prices, Operation

LD092005 Kuwait KUNA in English 1754 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Beirut, May 9 (KUNA) — A ranking Saudi official has denied the presence of U.S. military bases in any Arab Gulf country and said nothing could prevent Riyadh from getting advanced weapons if Washington failed to endorse an arms deal with the kingdom.

Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, in an interview published Friday in Lebanese *AL-BAIRAQ* newspaper, said Riyadh can always resort to another arms supplier should the U.S. Congress block an arms sale to the kingdom. But he was quick to add that Saudi Arabia was keen not to have its ties with the United States jeopardized over the issue.

He flatly denied the presence of any American military bases in Arab Gulf countries, "not even in Oman." Oman has made no secret about granting military facilities to the United States.

Responding to a question, the Saudi official who is also second deputy premier and minister of aviation, stressed that Saudi Arabia's U.S.-built AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control Systems) aircraft are being flown by Saudi pilots. Answering another question, Prince Sultan said his country condemns all forms of terrorism but, he added, that the possibility of joining international efforts to fight this phenomenon has not been discussed yet in Riyadh.

Shifting to the impact of falling oil prices on his country, Prince Sultan predicted that oil prices would stabilize in the near future and said Saudi Arabia was making efforts to achieve that end. He at the same time emphasized that the kingdom was not contemplating a currency devaluation.

The Saudi official who has recently undergone surgery in Geneva categorically denied "rumours" that he had been fired at by a Saudi official and said the allegations were the brainchild of "wild imaginations." However, he said that as a public figure it would not be surprising that he might be attacked. He explained that the operation he underwent in Switzerland was to remove a [word indistinct] and that he later moved to West Germany for recuperation.

King Fahd Receives Bahraini Amir's Message

GF100527 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2040 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Jeddah, 9 May (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has received a verbal message from His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain. The message was conveyed by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak al Khalifah, Bahraini minister of foreign affairs, during his meeting with his majesty this evening. The audience was attended by Amir of Riyadh His Highness Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Minister of Foreign Affairs His Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Saudi Interior Minister Returns from Abroad

GF100533 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2152 GMT 9 May 86

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 9 May (SPA) — Minister of Interior His Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz returned to Jeddah from abroad this evening.

YAR

Foreign Minister Returns From Libya Visit

GF100529 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs, and member of the Standing committee, returned to Sanaa from Tripoli this evening after a 2-day visit to Libya. In a statement to SABA', Dr al-Iryani stated that during his stay in Tripoli, he held talks with Kamil Mansur, Libyan secretary of the General Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, on bilateral relations and coordinating issues of mutual interest.

Mubarak Leaves for Brief Meeting With Husayn

NC111252 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1242 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Cairo, 11 May (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Cairo for the port of 'Aqaba this afternoon on a brief visit to Jordan, during which he will meet with Jordanian King Husayn.

Returns to Cairo

NC111957 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1953 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Cairo, 11 May (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo from Aqaba tonight after a 7-hour visit during which he met with his majesty King Husayn of Jordan.

Mubarak Discusses Need To Solve Palestinian Issue

NC091504 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Paris, 9 May (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has reasserted the need for recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination within the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. He noted that no one can ignore the PLO and said: We must be realistic and be able to find a solution.

In a statement to the French newspaper *LE MATIN*, published today, President Mubarak emphasized that he is devoting all his efforts to finding a peaceful solution to the Palestinian issue. He noted that the situation has been frozen since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and even since the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement of February 1985. He stressed that he will act to try to end this stalemate.

Mubarak maintained that the Palestinians want land and that recognition of their rights will deprive certain countries of the opportunity to exploit the Palestinian issue for their own self interests. Mubarak noted that Yasir 'Arafat insists on his conditions for self-determination and that he is prepared to recognize UN resolution 242, which is considered a decisive condition for Palestinian participation in an international conference. Mubarak pointed out that he has no means to apply pressure on the Americans, adding: We are dealing with a superpower and all I can do is to hold meetings and offer explanations toward recognition of the Palestinian right to self-determination.

Regarding Syria's position on the Palestinian issue, Mubarak noted the contradictions in Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's statement: He said in Yugoslavia recently, that this problem must be solved peacefully but, when he returned to Syria, he again stressed that force is the only means to solve this problem. Mubarak said: Frankly speaking, I cannot understand what the Syrian president wants. If he is sincere, he can easily cooperate. Mubarak called on Syrian President Al-Asad to withdraw the Syrian forces from Lebanon. He stressed that his primary preoccupation now is to assure Egypt's true role in the Arab world. Mubarak said: We are the fulcrum in this region and no one can assume this status.

Mubarak Meets With Former Gaza Mayor Al-Shawwa

NC101112 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received former mayor of Gaza Rashad al-Shawwa this morning. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the meeting. Al-Shawwa arrived in Cairo on Wednesday on a visit of several days.

Jordanian Economic Delegation Arrives for Talks

NC111605 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1532 GMT 11 May 86

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 May (MENA) — A Jordanian economic and trade delegation led by Economy Ministry Under Secretary Muhammad al-Saqqaf arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a visit to Egypt that will last several days. The members of the group will discuss those trade issues that were agreed upon by the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee at its recent meeting in Amman.

Response to Al-Qadhdhafi's Threats Against Egypt

Libyan Threats 'Mere Bluster'

NC101551 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1240 GMT 10 May 86

[Hasan Fu'ad commentary: "Al-Qadhdhafi's Threats Are Mere Bluster"]

[Text] It seems that the events of the past week in the Arab world and abroad have washed away what little remains of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's calm and composure. Al-Qadhdhafi suddenly discovered that his hopes for leading the Arab world, as well as his illusions as champion of the Third World in dazzling triumphs over his enemies to the east, west, north, and south, have totally collapsed and vanished without a trace.

At the recent meeting in Fes, Morocco, Al-Qadhdafi called for an emergency Arab summit to discuss a single issue: the American raid on Libya. The Arabs rejected this demand, dealing a heavy blow to Al-Qadhdhafi's sense of self-importance. In addition, seven European countries [as heard] meeting in Tokyo took a unified stand on the colonel's terrorism. They issued a statement condemning Al-Qadhdhafi's international terrorism and approving some concrete countermeasures.

Thus cornered, Al-Qadhdhafi realized that from now on, he would have to attack not only the United States, but the seven countries involved in the Tokyo summit as well. Earlier, Al-Qadhdhafi decided to condemn every Arab state that let him down in Fes. These countries simply saw no point in sending their kings and presidents to a summit in Al-Qadhdhafi's remote birthplace of Sabha. He is now convinced that it is his duty to wage verbal campaigns against every country in the world until his universal leadership is recognized and his Green Book adopted as the bible of mankind.

As it is, a fair share of Al-Qadhdhafi's unbridled wrath is leveled at Egypt. Speaking in Banghazi yesterday, he threatened Egypt with words no less empty than his bogus claims to leadership and omnipotence. He threatened to attack us and promised specifically to do so in the American way. Obviously, he is still smarting from the American raid. Any leader in his right mind would never detail his method of attack, and would normally refrain from likening himself to others. This should be all the more true of a man full of complaints about the raid on Libya. We feel sorry for Al-Qadhdhafi, and share the Libyans' regret at having such a person as their head of state. Egypt duly condemned America's act of aggression at the time, for it believes in the ties of kinship, friendship, and good-neighborliness which link it to the Libyan people. Egypt will always stand by the Libyans as its bonds with Arab countries are too strong to be broken by their leaders' mischief. We support the Libyans in their hard times, and offer our hospitality to any honorable Libyan who takes refuge in Egypt from the campaign of physical liquidation waged by the Libyan regime around the clock. Regardless of its volume or pitch, the colonel's babble will, as it has in the past, fail to disturb us, for we see his statements as mere bluster.

'Violent Words' Examined

NC110520 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA) — *AL-AKHBAR* condemns the recent speech by Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in which he attacks Egypt. Though the speech deserves to be totally ignored, getting into the habit of disregarding the Libyan colonel's statements can lead to distortions and encourage the colonel of the "Great Jamahiriyah" into believing the opposite of the truth, the paper adds. This is particularly true when one considers the lies that the Libyan media excel which turn defeats into victories and reverses into power moves. In its Sunday editorial, the paper examines Al-Qadhdhafi's violent words against Egypt. These words, which come shortly after a visit to Egypt by a Libyan delegation seeking dialogue, confirm that this Al-Qadhdhafi has at least two faces and maybe more.

The paper also cites Egypt's views on Libya. Egypt tries not to talk about Al-Qadhdhafi and his weird behavior and many follies. Egypt has even tried to observe moderation when Al-Qadhdhafi's actions forster waves of international terrorism throughout the world, leading the United States to carry out a fierce air raid on the Libyan cities of Tripoli and Banghazi. When this occurred, Egypt emphasized that despite Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi's mistakes, the United States should have reflected carefully before attacking, because the victims were the sons of the Libyan people. The paper concludes by saying that Egypt, while responding to Al-Qadhdhafi's allegations, makes clear that it has not and will not be a state that shelters terrorists or has mercenaries in its pay.

Reportage on Visit by Omani Adviser Al-Zawawi

Mubarak Receives Adviser

NC111034 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Cairo, 11 May (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received Dr 'Umar al-Zawawi, adviser to Sultan Qabus Ibn Sa'id of Oman, at Al-Qubbah Palace at noon today. Dr al-Zawawi arrived in Cairo this morning on a visit of several hours.

Mubarak Meets AAPSO Conference Representatives

NC111625 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] President Husni Mubarak this morning received committee members of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, which is currently meeting in Cairo. Representatives of the Organization expressed their appreciation and thanks for the role played by Egypt, represented by its president and the Egyptian solidarity committee, for making the conference a success so that Arab solidarity may become a reality for the Arab nation.

During the meeting, President Mubarak highlighted Egypt's position and pan-Arab concern about solidarity. Mubarak then expounded on the various issues that concern the Arab homeland and answered questions. Representatives of the conference committees agreed on the need for a patriotic pan-Arab position.

'Abd al-Rahman al-Sharqawi, Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization chairman, said that convening this conference in Cairo comes at a time when the Arab regimes and leaders failed to meet but representatives of Arab people managed to hold a conference, which brought them closer. He said that agreement on a joint statement supporting all Arab issues is an indication of this. He added that he considers this meeting as a benchmark that will increase the conviction of Arab leaders that solidarity is important and necessary.

Continuing Reportage on Iraqi Speaker's Visit

Received by Al-Majid

NC081520 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA) — During a meeting with Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, speaker of Iraq's National Assembly, and members of his delegation today, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, emphasized the importance of unifying Arab objectives and stressed that Egypt supports the causes of the Arab nation, which has been proved by recent events and developments. Dr 'Abd al-Majid also expounded on Egypt's view of Arab national security, the repercussions on regional developments of this view, and the position of various states toward it.

The talks dealt with Egyptian-Iraqi relations, which were said to be good in all fields; developments in the arab region; and the Gulf war. The meeting was attended by Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the Egyptian People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, and Samir Najm, chief of the Iraqi interests mission in Cairo.

Speaks On Gulf War

NC100907 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0735 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA) — Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, has praised Egypt's support for

Iraq in its war against Iran. He said that Egypt had taken significant action on the question of the war, and deserved thanks for its efforts in this regard. Hammadi urged the Arab countries to spare no effort in support of Iraq. He pointed out that what has so far been offered falls far short of the requirements of the Arab Defense Pact. He added: We believe that there are areas where Egypt and other Arab countries can do more to support Iraq in its war against Iran.

Alluding to the situation in the Al-Faw peninsula, the speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly said in his interview with the weekly *AKHBAR AL-YAWM* that the Iranian offensive is doomed. One decisive battle will change the military situation in favor of Iraq. He said that Iranian losses will be greater than those of Iraq.

Asked what effect Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Jordan would have on Jordanian-Iraqi relations, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi said that Iraq gives its blessing to any rapprochement between Arabs. He stressed that the visit would not cause friction in relations between Jordan and Iraq. He noted that Jordan had briefed Iraq on the details of the visit from the outset, and indeed before it began. The speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly went on to say that Saudi Arabia had made attempts to mediate between Iraq and Syria, but to no avail, because of Syria's extremely obdurate stand and its unwillingness to improve relations with Iraq in view of its alliance with Iran. Dr Hammadi said that Libya and Syria should be held responsible for the fact that the Arab summit did not take place. He noted that these two countries had sought to make use of combined Arab action for their own purposes.

In response to a question about relations between Israel and Iran, Dr Hammadi said that the Iranian regime, despite all its Islamic claims and propaganda campaigns, is directly and indirectly cooperating with the Zionist entity. He added that Israel will continue to pursue this policy to paralyze and freeze Arab efforts.

Dr Hammadi warned of the grave situation in the Middle East, which, he said, work to the advantage of the United States and the Soviet Union. He added that this situation portends a possible confrontation between the two superpowers should matters deteriorate even further in the future.

Airport Statement, Departure

NC091543 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 May 86

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 May (MENA) — Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, and his accompanying delegation, left Cairo this afternoon after a 4-day visit to Egypt. In a predeparture statement at the airport, Hammadi expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of his visit. He said it was successful by all standards and achieved its goals. He said both countries share identical views regarding practical proposals for parliamentary cooperation.

Dr Hammadi noted that a joint document was signed between the Egyptian People's Assembly and the Iraqi National Assembly and this document is the beginning of greater cooperation. He pointed out that this visit provided him with an opportunity to meet with leaders of fraternal Egypt and discuss important regional issues. He said: Egypt is pursuing a positive policy toward Arab countries and Iraq completely supports this course.

Iraqi Foreign Affairs Official Arrives

NC101621 Cairo MENA in English 1550 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Cairo, May 10 (MENA) — Iraqi Foreign Undersecretary Nuri al-Ways and his accompanying delegation arrived here this afternoon on a few days' visit during which they will hold talks with the Foreign Ministry officials on promoting relations between the two countries. Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi, director of the Foreign Ministry Legal Department and Samir al-Najm, Iraq's ambassador in Cairo [title as received], welcomed the Iraqi officials at the airport.

Tabah Talks To Resume Next Week in Tel Aviv

NC111258 Cairo MENA in English 1240 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Cairo, May 11 (MENA) — Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said the Tabah negotiations will be resumed next week in Tel Aviv at experts level between Egypt and Israel. The meeting will complete discussions of issues pertaining to conditions of international arbitration for settling the Tabah crisis. Dr. 'Abd al-Majid made this statement following his meeting today with Nabil al-'Arabi, director of the legal department at the foreign ministry, and head of the Egyptian delegation to the Tabah talks.

Comoran Foreign Minister Arrives on 1-Day Visit

NC110805 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Cairo, 11 May (MENA) — Comoran Foreign Minister Said Kafe arrived in Cairo this morning on a 1-day visit. He will hold talks with Foreign Ministry Officials within the framework of bilateral consultations. He was received at the airport by Ambssador Muhsin Khalifah, of the Foreign Ministry's department for foreign affairs. [as received]

Qandil Sees Off Kuwaiti Oil Minister 9 May

NC091211 Cairo MENA in English 1140 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Cairo, May 9 (MENA) — Kuwaiti Minister of Oil Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah left here today at the end of a two-day visit during which he met President Husni Mubarak. Shaykh al-Khalifah also discussed with Minister of Oil and Mineral Wealth 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil the situation of the international oil market. The Kuwaiti official was seen off by Qandil and Minister of Industry Dr. Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab.

U.S.-Israeli Anti-Syria Campaign Criticized

NC100633 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Cairo, 9 May (MENA) — *AL-JUMHURIYAH* writes: It seems that there is no place for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, which is afflicted by ruin and destruction. This threatens to plunge the region into more blood and destruction. Amid this nightmarish situation, the principal issue in the area — the Palestinian people and their just right to live within secure borders in an independent state like other people — will be lost.

The paper notes reports coming from Washington and the West about Israel's military preparations to commit aggression against Syria following U.S. propaganda that Damascus is abetting international terrorism just like Libya. In an editorial tomorrow, Saturday, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says that U.S. and Israeli propaganda does not hide the hostile intentions and aims, and shows that the United States and Israel have agreed to split the job between the two. The United States will take care of Libya with its 6th Fleet and strategic cruise missiles, while Israel will take care of Syria and hit it on the pretext that Syria's military strength is increasing rapidly and must be curbed before it is too late. The paper stresses that this is the suitable atmosphere for the Israeli military establishment to play its preferred game in the region. It coincides with the Arabs' inability to hold an extraordinary summit to discuss the threats and dangers poised against their existence and future. Concluding its editorial, the paper wonders what history will say of this dark Arab age.

Defense Minister Cited on Aircraft Procurement

NC101406 Cairo MENA in English 1350 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Cairo, May 10 (MENA) — Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy premier and defence and military production minister, said Egypt will receive the airborne warning E-2C aircraft from the United States early next year. A number of French Mirage 2000 will also reach Egypt during next June, he said.

After attending the passing out ceremony of a new batch of fighter pilots, Abu Ghazalah said Egyptian pilots are currently trained in France on flying the Mirage planes. It was also agreed with the French side to assemble and manufacture some parts of these planes, Abu Ghazalah said, adding Egypt will ask France for another deal of the Mirage 2000 aircraft. Abu Ghazalah said the joint Egyptian-Sudanese defence agreement was neither cancelled nor amended but noted any agreement could be amended.

On his visit to Jordan, Abu Ghazalah said it was postponed till after Bairam Feast. Abu Ghazalah underlined the importance of the air forces which are the backbone of the Armed Forces. He also noted that the Soviet Sukhoi planes will no longer be used by the Egyptian air forces.

Soviet Team Arrives To Modernize Steel Plants

NC100613 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 10 May 86

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper *AKHBAR AL-YAWM* notes Egyptian-Soviet agreements to renovate the iron and steel plants. The paper says that a Soviet economic delegation has arrived in Cairo to discuss several new agreements to modernize the iron and steel, coke, and thermal plants. The Soviet Union supplied the machinery and equipment for these plants some 20 years ago. The cost of the new expansion work will total approximately $3 billion.

Industry Ministry Officials on Trial for Corruption

NC110822 Cairo MENA in English 0740 GMT 11 May 86

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, May 11 (MENA) — The three morning dailies [*AL-AHRAM*, *AL-AKHBAR*, and *AL-JUMHURIYAH*] published on their front pages that the attorney-general decided yesterday to put 18 persons, including two West-Geramsn and 13 high officials of the Ministry of Industry on trial on charges of bribery, corruption and harming the national economy. Investigation into the case began last January and the arrests were made on February 11, indications that the government was forging ahead with an anti-corruption drive.

Speaker Hammadi Returns to Baghdad From Cairo

JN091922 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Baghdad, 9 May (INA) — The Iraqi National Assembly delegation under Assembly Speaker Dr Sa'dun Hammadi returned here today at the end of a 3-day visit to Egypt. Dr Hammadi said that during the visit the Iraqi delegation held a series of talks with many Egyptian officials with whom the members of the delegation reviewed parliamentary, economic, and cultural relations between the two countries as well as the dimensions of the Iranian aggression against Iraq and its serious developments. Dr Hammadi added that a cooperation program between the Iraqi National Assembly and the Egyptian People's Assembly was signed dealing with the exchange of visits, delegations, and expertise in the legislative sphere.

Dr Hammadi added that it was agreed within this cooperation program that was signed for the Egyptian People's Assembly by its Speaker Dr Rifa'at al-Mahjub to organize an activities week that will highlight the democratic experience of the two parliamentary bodies and establish an Iraqi-Egyptian parliamentary association in the two assemblies.

Irrigation Minister Returns From Hanoi Meetings

JN111327 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Baghdad — Irrigation Minister 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud returned to Baghdad from Hanoi today after heading the Iraqi side to the meetings of the Iraqi-Vietnamese joint committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation which concluded there last Thursday.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, the minister said the committee discussed a number of topics pertaining to joint cooperation in the economic, trade, and technical fields and the possibility of increasing trade.

The committee also reviewed the implementation of the articles of the previous joint cooperation program as well as the definition of areas for future cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Envoy Asks No French Arms for Iran, Discusses Ties

PM091320 Paris LE FIGARO in French 30 Apr 86 p 3

[Claude Lorieux report: "Iraqi Ambassador: No French Arms for Iran!"]

[Text] "We hope that the normalization of relations between France and Iran will not reach the level of arms supplies," Iraqi Ambassador to France Muhammad Sadiq al-Mashshat said yesterday when addressing the diplomatic press association.

"It is natural," the ambassador explained, "that France should wish to normalize its relations with Iran, but I hope that this normalization will not be carried out at the expense of the precious friendship between Iraq and France or of France's relations with the Arab world.... If the normalization of Franco-Iranian relations went as far as the supply of arms, it would be a very serious matter."

Following the Quai d'Orsay secretary general's recent mission to Tehran, Baghdad's representative in France is "not worried": "France's policy is clear and firm and there will be no change."

In this connection Mr al-Mashshat draws no distinction between the attitude of successive French governments toward his country: "We were happy with the former government (under Fabius); we are happy with the new government," he said, recalling, however, the incident of the supply of French munitions to Iran via Cherbourg.

The Iraqi nuclear power station in Tammuz, which was destroyed 5 years ago by an Israeli bombing raid, has still not been rebuilt by France. Baghdad is still waiting for Paris to confirm its agreement in principle. The ambassador stressed for his part that Iraq, which has signed the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, will agree to open the rebuilt power station to inspection by experts from the Vienna agency and to French experts.

As for the two Iraqis expelled from France to Iraq in the last days of the Fabius government, the ambassador confirmed that "they have been pardoned and have the right to go to the country of their choice," but "they should take their time."

In reply to a question about the opponents of the Khomeyni regime who have taken refuge in France, especially Mojahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud Rajavi, the Baghdad representative confirmed that his country "supports all opponents of Khomeyni, whatever their leanings, and will suport them as long as the war lasts."

Three Possibilities

During his "press breakfast" the ambassador also discussed the following points:

— There are three possible ways of ending the Iran-Iraq war: first, that Khomeyni should die or be overthrown by a coup d'etat; second, that the UN resolutions should be implemented and thus that the Security Council should impose sanctions on Iran; third, that the Western countries should stop buying oil from and selling arms to Iran.

"Israel is Iran's main arms supplier. We informed the United States of that after they normalized their relations with us." But Iran also receives arms "directly or indirectly from Britain," Germany, and Italy, "and unfortunately some from France, but clandestinely." In the Eastern bloc North Korea is the main supplier.

Iraq is not short of weapons. And there are three reasons for this: First, it has resources other than oil; second, the country can obtain credit because it has kept its promises; third, it is supported by the Gulf countries.

— Ban on overflying Iran imposed by Baghdad on civil airlines. "Iranian airspace has been part of the exclusion zone since Iran bombed our cities, especially Baghdad. This ban will be maintained."

— Fes summit. If it is confirmed, Iraq will only participate if the Iran-Iraq war is on the agenda.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran

AL-QADISIYAH on Recent Operations

JN100824 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0614 GMT 10 May 86

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 10 May (INA) — Today's Iraqi papers emphasize the Iraqi Armed Forces' determination to make the coming battles with the Iranian enemy a series of epics which will not only destroy their forces and crush their remnants, but also chase them inside their own territory.

AL-QADISIYAH, organ of the Iraqi Armed Forces, says in its editorial: The VI Army Corps' operation yesterday confirms the Iraqi Armed Forces' ability to penetrate deep into Iranian territory at any time. This is their reply to the Iranian enemy's bragging, arrogance, and insistence on aggression.

The paper adds: The well-planned attack by the IV Army Corps yesterday to smash enemy arrogance is part of the severe punishment which Iraq has prepared for the Iranian aggressors.

AL-QADISIYAH affirms: What is currently taking place on the battlefront will be the new policy. The Tehran rulers' dens will continuously be targets for the Iraqi Armed Forces. These rulers will not be protected by the means given them by Zionism and the so-called Arabs. The pressure will continue until they submit to peace and justice.

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN121008 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Baghdad, 12 May (INA) — Iraqi fighter planes raided a large maritime target off the Iranian coast this morning, scoring an accurate and effective hit. In a statement to INA this afternoon, a military spokesman said the raiding planes carried out their strike at 0906 [0506 GMT] today and returned safely to base.

Loss of Plane Over Gulf Denied

JN112006 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1957 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Baghdad, 11 May (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian allegations that an Iraqi fighter plane was downed in the Arab Gulf region today. The spokesman told INA that these allegations are sheer lies by which the Iranian rulers try to cover up their huge losses on the front. The military spokesman dared the Iranian regime to present evidence to prove its claims, adding that the Iranian regime's lies are proved by the fact that it always claims that Iraqi planes fall in the Gulf, thus avoiding the need to present evidence of its claims.

Communique No 2,219

JN091534 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1450 GMT 9 May 86

[Unscheduled announcement; Communique No 2,219 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 9 May 1986]

[Excerpts] Glorious Iraqis, you know the feats of your IV Army Corps and the courage of its men. This corps today recorded a new feat in the annals of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah battle. On this day, the heroic Abu 'Aubaydah Forces, in accordance with field supervision from the corps command under Staff Major General Thabit Sultan Ahmad, mounted a resolute and crushing offensive along a 10-km front and also succeeded in penetrating enemy positions to a distance of 10 km to surround enemy positions within a 100-sq km area. Our daring armored forces and our heroic infantrymen, supported by our giant Air Force, our brave artillery, and the valiant knights of the helicopter gunships, advanced, sowing destruction and death among enemy ranks, and rushed toward their targets, completely occupying them. The enemy was repulsed in the Chame-e Hendi and ('Ayn Kizah) areas, including vantage points No 102, 117, and 115, the Iranian (Bray) Valley, the circular and rectangular hills, and the areas overlooking the (Bray) Valley. The situation in these areas was completely settled in favor of our triumphant forces. While the heroic Abu 'Aubaydah Forces were advancing, the Al-Rafidayn Forces carried out a raid to engage enemy units in battle and exhaust their reserve forces. With God's help and the men's courage, our forces destroyed the bulk of the enemy forces. These are two armored brigades of the 16th [as heard] Armored Division, two armored brigades of the 81st Armored Division, one infantry brigade of the 58th Division, one charlatan Khomeyni Guard brigade, and several guard and gendarmerie regiments. The enemy sustained massive losses in life, equipment, and military hardware. An enemy helicopter was also shot down. Glorious Iraqis, our forces also captured a large number of enemy personnel, including officers.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 May 1986

Communique No 2,220

JN091718 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 May 86

[Communique No 2,220 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 9 May 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. While welcoming the blessed month of Ramadan with hearts full of faith and principles, our valiant Armed Forces implore Almighty God to protect their great leader so that he may revive the nation's glory, be its messenger and savior from the machinations of the evildoers, and continue bestowing on us the blessings of victory to keep our country free and secure. The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday and today:

1. During the series of heroic operations that the brave men of the VII Army Corps have carried out in which they inflicted heavy losses in life and equipment on the enemy, our forces of this valiant corps captured the following weapons: 16 40-mm

tubular launchers, 9 60-mm mortars, 49 Kalashnikov rifles, 9 machineguns of various types, and 1 sniping rifle. Elsewhere in the same sector our forces achieved the following: four infantry positions were destroyed, three machineguns were destroyed and those manning them were killed, two vehicles were destroyed, one shovel was damaged, two machinegun positions were destroyed, and three ammunition dumps were destroyed. May God bless the men of the heroic VII Army Corps.

2. A heroic force of our brave forces in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris launched a successful, daring raid on areas opposite it where the enemy forces are present. In a resolute and lightning offensive, our force stormed enemy positions, killing the Khomeyniite rogues in these positions. Following this, the enemy sent six boats carrying personnel to rescue its defeated forces. Our fighters clashed with them, destroying all the boats and killing or drowning all those on board. The enemy then sent other boats. In a decisive battle, our brave soldiers sank some of these boats while the rest fled. Confirmed enemy losses amount ot the following: 41 enemy soldiers were either killed or drowned, others were wounded, 7 boats were destroyed, 8 rafts were destroyed, and 2 DShK machineguns were also destroyed. Our fighters also captured six rafts and one steel shelter. May God bless the men of the heroic VI Army Corps.

3. Our giant Air Force today offered the best support to our ground forces in their victorious offensive against enemy forces in 85 combat missions which the brave eagles of the air carried out against enemy positions, troop concentrations, weapons, and military hardware. Our brave eagles also achieved the following: a. one enemy command center was raided and destroyed; b. the Cham Sarim bridge was raided and destroyed; c. the (Shikhawi) bridge was raided and destroyed; d. the Doveryrich bridge was raided and destroyed; e. the Imam Na'ir bridge was raided and destroyed; and f. the Cham-e Hendi bridge was raided and destroyed. After carrying out their missions, the brave eagles safely returned with their planes to the homeland under God's protection and guidance. Blessed be your hands, O brave eagles of Iraq.

4. The valiant helicopter gunship knights participated in the heroic offensive carried out by our forces in the IV Army Corps, offering the best support to our ground forces, and inflicting losses on the enemy in 45 combat sorties after which the knights safely and victoriously returned to base under God's protection and guidance. May God bless your good efforts.

5. Our brave forces in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan captured the following weapons and military hardware that the enemy had left behind in previous communiques: 1 BMB-1 personnel carrier, 16 Kalashnikov rifles, 9 RPG-7 launchers, 6 BKC machineguns, 1 60-mm mortar, 3 (Bakatang) machineguns, 3 radio sets, 1 gas-operated rifle, 1 sniping rifle, and 1 GC rifle. Our units sighted 10 enemy personnel in the same sector and killed them. May god bless the soldiers of the heroic IV Army Corps. Our brave units in the II Army Corps central sector achieved the following: a. One serviceable personnel carrier the enemy had left behind in previous battles was destroyed; b. six infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants were either killed or wounded; c. one DShK machinegun position was destroyed and those manning it were either killed or wounded; d. one enemy soldier was killed; and e. one machinegun position was destroyed. May God bless the men of the heroic II Army Corps.

5. Three enemy soldiers were killed and three infantry positions and one machinegun position were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. The forces of charlatanism shelled the Khanaqin environs and Al-Siba and Al-Jabbasi with long-range artillery, demolishing two houses in Khanaqin.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 May 1986

Communique No 2,221

JN101629 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 May 86

[Communique No 2,221 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 10 May 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continue their march along the path of victory, protecting Iraq's territory, defending its sovereignty and its people's dignity, and dealing painful blows to the vicious, racist, and despotic clique.

The following is a roundup of our activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. Our units on the VII Army Corps front managed to achieve the following: One enemy bulldozer and one Poclain excavator were destroyed and two shovels and one grader were damaged; five vehicles were set ablaze and two others were damaged; and three ammunition dumps and four positions of various types were destroyed.

2. A group of enemy troops attempted to approach one of our units' positions in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. It was pounded with all types of weapons and was forced to retreat after suffering human losses. Elsewhere in the same sector, our units destroyed two infantry positions.

3. One enemy soldier was killed, two infantry positions and two observation posts were destroyed, and two serviceable vehicles were seized in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. Two enemy rafts, one boat, and two infantry positions were destroyed and another raft was pulled back to our units' positions in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

5. One boat, one ammunition dump, one observation post, and two infantry positions were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. The criminal enemy shelled the village of Shandri and the environs of Khanaqin with long-range artillery, wounding two civilians in Shandri and damaging two houses in the Khanaqin environs.

7. Some Iranian military men defected to our forward units. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 10 May 1986

Communique No 2,222

JN111843 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 11 May 86

[Communique No 2,222 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 11 May 1986]

[Excerpt] The following is a roundup of operations for last night and today:

1. O proud Iraqis, your V Army Corps, which defended the northern part of the dear homeland and stood firmly in the face of the rapacious aggressors and which liberated our land and mounted the peaks of glory in order to destroy the Khomeyniites in heroic battles which will remain alive in the memories of future generations, has recorded a new epic today. Our brave forces, assisted by heroic Kurdish fighters, launched a resolute attack at 2000 [1600 GMT] yesterday liberating a number of traverses, peaks, and areas of the filth of the rascal Khomeyniites and the suspect agents, the traitorous guides who sold their honor and conscience and who are trying to sell the land to the Iranian rulers. The unity of our people foiled their designs.

With perfect planning, resolute drive, and with the assistance of our powerful Air Force, helicopter gunships, and capable artillery, our forces at 0815 today completed the liberation of the vital Sorkheh traverse with its step peak No 2,527 and its three vantage points: 2,114, 2,041, and 1,998. They also liberated the Kuzeh Shuan traverse with peak No 2,198.

After the defeat of the aggressors and their agents in these areas, and after massive enemy losses in weaponry, men, and equipment, the situation was finally settled in favor of our triumphant forces. God bless the heroic V Army Corps — officers, commanders, and other ranks. God bless our tough, brave fighters of our Kurdish people.

2. Our Air Force, which is the unsheathed Iraqi sword in the face of the rapacious enemies, is continuing to strip the enemy of its means of aggression, to destroy its economic resources, and to inflict losses on its remnant forces which the enemy is preparing against our people and their achievements. Our Air Force launched 95 combat missions, rendering the best support to our land forces and inflicting massive losses on enemy scoundrels, weaponry, and equipment. At 1440 [1040 GMT] today, our planes launched two successful raids against the pumping station in production unit No 2 of the Agha Jari oil field and the pumping station in production unit No 2 of the Marun oil field. Our planes hit their targets and set them ablaze. After carrying out their missions accurately and efficiently, our pilots returned to the homeland safe and triumphant in God's care.

3. The Army helicopter gunships continued their heroic operations today. Our men rendered splendid support to our land units and participated in striking at the scoundrels to inflict massive losses on them. Our helicopters flew 156 combat missions, killing a number of enemy troops and destroying enemy weaponry, equipment, and hardware. Our men returned with their helicopters to their bases, safe and triumphant.

4. An enemy force estimated at two infantry regiments, supported by tanks, attempted to advance on our units' new positions in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. With great determination our forces confronted the frustrated enemy and were able to contain the enemy offensive and to begin destroying its forces. In a lightning battle, our forces crushed the enemy offensive, destroying most of the attacking force, and forced the rest to flee. Thus, the situation was finally settled in our forces' favor.

In the same sector, our forces killed 10 enemy soldiers and destroyed 1 machinegun, 10 ammunition dumps, and 2 vehicles. In the same sector, our forces sighted two Cobra helicopters trying to advance on our forward units. Our ground resistance fire confronted them, destroying one and forcing the other to flee. God bless the faithful soldiers of the heroic IV Army Corps.

5. Our brave forces in the VII Army Corps front continue to direct fire at enemy concentrations, positions, weapons, and equipment. They destroyed two infantry positions and killed a number of their occupants. They also destroyed one medium-caliber machinegun and killed those manning it and destroyed one DShK machinegun and killed those manning it. They also destroyed one machinegun, two vehicles, two ammunition dumps, and one observation post. They also damaged one excavator and started fires in the enemy camp. While carrying out its duties in the no-man's-land, a heroic patrol seized three Kalashnikov rifles, one 60-mm mortar, one medium- caliber machinegun, and two light launchers.

6. One of our units in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris launched a raid against enemy positions opposite them. With a quick, resolute drive, the unit stormed enemy positions, killed or drowned 12 enemy men, injured others, and destroyed 2 boats. Five rafts, three Kalashnikov rifles, and one medium-caliber machinegun were seized. Our brave fighters returned to base with their booty, praise be to God. In the same sector, our units killed three enemy soldiers and destroyed two boats, one raft, one infantry position, and one observation post. God bless the VI Army Corps fighters.

7. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector destroyed one tank, one troop assembly point, three personnel shelters, one vehicle, and one DShK emplacement, and killed or wounded three enemy soldiers. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basra, our forces killed five enemy men and destroyed two ammunition dumps, one infantry position, and one vehicle.

8. The tyrant Khomeyni forces shelled Al-Basra, Khanaqin, and the Shandri housing complex in the Sayyid Sadiq area. The shelling injured a woman in the Shandri housing complex.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 May 1986

Reportage on Egyptian President's Visit to Aqaba

Arrives 11 May

JN111512 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Aqaba — Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in the city of Aqaba this afternoon on a short visit during which he will hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn. His majesty the king received him at Aqaba Airport. He was also received by Prime minister Zayd al-Rifa‘i, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Court Minister ‘Adnan abu ‘Awdah, Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, and Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Ihab Wahbah. His Excellency President Mubarak is accompanied by Foreign Minister ‘Ismat ‘Abd al-Majid and Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

Talks With King Husayn

JN111915 Amman Television Service in English
1900 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Talks were held in Aqaba this evening between His Majesty King Husayn and visiting Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the current international and regional issues as well as bilateral relations. The talks were attended by the Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa‘i, the Chief of the Royal Court Marwan al-Qasim, the Court Minister ‘Adnan Abu ‘Awdah, the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces General Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri. The Egyptian side comprised the Foreign Minister Dr ‘Ismat ‘Abd al-Majid, the Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif, and the Egyptian ambassador to Jordan.

Leaders Discuss Palestinian Issue

NC111631 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Aqaba, 11 May (MENA) — Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that the talks President Husni Mubarak held with His Majesty King Husayn in Aqaba this afternoon are within the framework of the constant fraternal meetings between the two leaders. Al-Sharif said that this meeting was characterized by a spirit of brotherhood and identical views on the issues discussed, primarily the latest developments in the Middle East issue, the future of Arab relations, and the Jordanian-Palestinian moves.

King Husayn is to hold a Ramadan banquet at the royal palace in Aqaba this evening in honor of President Mubarak and his accompanying delegation. Both leaders will then hold a second round of talks, after which President Mubarak will leave for Cairo.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Aqaba, President Mubarak praised his meeting with King Husayn, saying: "Truly, King Husayn is a brother. For a long time, we have been in the habit of meeting together. This meeting is neither a surprise nor unique, it is a periodic one." Mubarak said: When there are issues to be discussed, we meet to exchange views and talk, whether in Amman, Aqaba, or anywhere in the Arab Republic of Egypt. King Husayn honors us wherever he comes to Egypt.

Mubarak added: "We have discussed all bilateral issues and exchanged views on several other matters because our actions must be coordinated." About the date and venue of his next meeting with King Husayn, President Mubarak said: "A meeting may take place in Amman, Cairo, or Aqaba. We do not prearrange our meetings but set a date only 24 hours prior and agree on a venue in Cairo, Amman, or elsewhere.

After ending his discussions with President Mubarak, His Majesty King Husayn expressed his appreciation of and pride in these discussions, saying: The object of every meeting with His Excellency brother President Mubarak is to discuss all issues, strengthen all the fraternal ties between the two countries, and serve the Arab interests in the great Arab homeland. Asked to expand on the most important topics that were discussed during the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn said: We have discussed the issues that I believe concern all the brothers in the great Arab homeland.

President Husni Mubarak and His Majesty King Husayn made a 30-minute boat tour in the Gulf of Aqaba, during which they visited the Egyptian island of Fir‘awn. They then attended a Ramadan banquet, which his majesty the Jordanian king hosted in the honor of President Mubarak and his accompanying delegation at the royal guest palace in Aqaba. President Husni Mubarak left Aqaba at 2100 Amman time after ending his discussions with King Husayn.

President Mubarak was seen off at Aqaba Airport by His Majesty King Husayn, Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa‘i, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan al-Qasim, Court Minister ‘Adnan Abu ‘Awdah, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, and Egypt's Ambassador in Amman Ihab Wahbah.

Departs 11 May

JN112008 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Aqaba — His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Aqaba this evening after holding talks with his brother His Majesty King Husayn. He was seen off by His Majesty King Husayn, Zayd al-Rifa‘i, the prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; ‘Adnan Abu ‘Awdah, court minister; General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; and Tahir al-Masri, minister of foreign affairs.

AL-ITTIHAD Says Jordan Deported Five PLO Cadres

GF111952 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 11 May 86 p 1

[Text] Amman — *AL-ITTIHAD* has learned that Jordanian authorities deported five PLO cadres from Amman on Thursday. Yahya Rabah, official in charge of the bulletin *AL-FATAH* which is issued by Fatah in Amman; and Mahmud al-‘Alul, an assistant to Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, were among these cadres, in addition to three others — Walid Mazhar, Abu Tawfiq, and Abu al-Layl.

Minister on Steps To Ensure Radiation-Free Imports

JN101520 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1416 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Amman, 10 May (PETRA) — Dr Raja'i al-Mu'ashshir, minister of industry, trade, and supply, has asserted that the ministry, in cooperation with all competent government bodies, has taken all necessary precautions to guarantee that imported foodstuffs are free of radiation. He said the measures taken stipulate that the importers of fresh meat for the Ministry of Supply should attach an official certificate issued by government sources in the country of origin to every shipment, confirming that the meat is free of nuclear radiation.

Regarding frozen meat and fish as well as dairy products imported by the private sector, all those who import them from countries neighboring the nuclear radiation zone should provide an official certificate with every shipment confirming it is free of radiation.

The supply minister asserted that the ministry, out of its complete concern for the citizens' safety, is conducting the necessary tests on all shipments of foodstuffs imported to Jordan in cooperation with the specialized technical bodies in the Royal Scientific Society to ensure they are safe for human consumption and free of any traces of nuclear radiation.

Meat Found Radiation-Free

JN111441 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1412 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Amman, 11 May (PETRA) — The Ministry of Supply, in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society laboratories, has conducted laboratory tests on imported meat.

The Ministry of Supply under secretary has said that laboratory examinations confirmed that the imported meat was free of any harmful nuclear radiation. He explained that meat importers provided certificates of origin stating that the meat was free of any radiation harmful to citizens' health.

Spanish King, Queen Conclude Private Visit

JN111527 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 May 86

[Excerpt] Aqaba — His Majesty King Juan Carlos of Spain and Her Majesty Queen Sofia left the city of Aqaba this morning after a private visit of several days to Jordan. Their majesties were seen off at Aqaba Airport by His Majesty King Husayn and her Majesty Queen Nur. They were also seen off by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, General Sayd ibn Shakir, Commander in chief of the Army staff, and the Spanish ambassador along with their wives, as well as senior officials of the Aqaba region authority.

Husayn Congratulates Sudan's Al-Mirghani, Al-Mahdi

JN081203 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today sent a cable of congratulations to His Excellency President Ahmad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council. Following is the text of the cable:

His Excellency brother Ahmad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council, may God preserve him, Khartoum. It gives me pleasure to seize the occasion of your election as chairman of the Sudanese State Council to send to your excellency, in my name and on behalf of the people and government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, warmest congratulations coupled with prayers to Almighty God to grant you success in achieving fraternal Sudan's welfare, glory, and prosperity.

[Signed] Your brother, Husayn.

His Majesty King Husayn also sent a cable of congratulations to Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi on his election as chairman of the Sudanese Council of Ministers.

Press Views U.S. Stand on Arms to Saudi Arabia

SAWT AL-SHA'B Analysis

JN100859 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 May 86 pp 1, 20

["Unattributed news analysis" under the headline "U.S. Congress' Refusal To Sell Arms to Saudi Arabia Reflects Hostility Toward Arabs, Both Extremists and Moderates"]

[Excerpt] Observers noted yesterday that the landslide vote by the U.S. Congress to stop an arms deal with Saudi Arabia reflects a radical change in the views of Congress and U.S. political forces toward the Arab world.

Those observers also noted that rejecting the deal, which involves defensive weapons with limited effectiveness, does not only reflect the pressure of the Zionist lobby on Congress, but also shows the establishment of a new lobby hostile to all Arabs and which does not believe in the traditional U.S. classification of the Arab world on the basis of moderates and extremists.

Those observers believe that the establishment of an anti-Arab lobby in Congress comes amid an escalating anti-Arab campaign in the United States and amid increasing accusations which tie Arabs to terrorism.

Analysts say that White House criticism of the congressional decision, and even its veto of that decision, will not change the fact that a great breakdown has taken place in the traditional ties between the White House and so-called moderate Arab countries.

Those analysts blame the breakdown in these ties on objective factors which cannot be changed through normal reconciliation.

With the formation of a lobby in the United States hostile to Arabs, both moderates and extremists, each time the U.S. Administration submits a decision to strengthen ties between the United States and moderate Arab countries it will face a strong anti-Arab current.

On the other hand, Arab countries which have friendly relations with the United States will wonder about the use of adopting moderate policies while the United States is treating all Arabs alike despite their political stances. Within this framework, observers view the statements made by Prince Sultan ibn ‘Abd al-‘Aziz [Saudi defense minister] affirming the freedom of Saudi Arabia to behave as it wishes and to purchase arms from any source it desires, as well as Egyptian criticism of Congress' decision, as clear messages to the White House.

In another delevlopment, U.S. press sources said that the U.S. Administration has no right to be angry with Congress because of its recent decision. The U.S. Administration itself seems not to be concerned about its position in the Middle East and also seems to be responsible for the existence of the anti-Arab spirit in the United States.

AL-RA‘Y Editorial

JN100733 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 May 86 pp 1, 26

[Editorial: "No to Hegemony"]

[Text] It is obvious that the obstacles which so far have prevented Jordan and Saudi Arabia from receiving U.S. arms are an interpretation of an extreme U.S. stand aimed at turning the region into an arena open to threatening ambitions, as well as achieving hegemony over this region.

It is no secret that such a U.S. stand is becoming more negative every day. That stand kept the Middle East issue out of the Tokyo summit. The U.S. stand also wanted to replace the Arab-Israeli conflict with the so-called combating terrorism issue among the priorities of the international community.

Such a stand represents a real obstacle to the peace march in the region. It also represents a danger which may produce unpredictable eventualities. A prominent possible eventuality is represented by Israeli schemes against Syria — schemes which the Israeli war minister divulged to U.S. officials, as reported by a television network in the United States. All this has created an atmosphere charged with anxiety which was not eased by the statement made by Peres yesterday in which he said that Israel does not intend to attack Syria. Previous experience has taught us not to trust such statements because ignoring this aggression represents a basic principle of Israeli policy, and encouraging as well as ignoring this aggression represents the basic principle of U.S. policy toward Arabs.

U.S. politicians will be mistaken if they believe that such a trend will give them prestige and hegemony. They will be even more mistaken if they believe that their policy can end Israeli aggression against the Arab nation by raising the issue of combating terrorism.

The United States can withhold arms from the Arabs and practice instigation against them, but it cannot impose hegemony, overt them,r paralyze their will. This is because Arab weakness is not a permanent Arab sitaution and because the Arab masses are determined to defend the nation and regain their usurped rights.

Al-Jumayyil Returns Home, Halat Airport Shelled

NC091523 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1415 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil returned to Lebanon through Halat Airport at 1530 today. He was met by Army Commander General Michel 'Awn, Minister Joseph al-Hashim, former minister Elie Salim, and Colonel Simon Qassis. Soon after he landed, the airport was shelled from north of Al-Madfun bridge. The authorities were compelled to take precautions to prevent such attempts in the future. President al-Jumayyil went from Halat Airport to the presidential summer palace in Bikfayya.

The rocket and artillery bombardment of Halat Airport and nearby areas, which lasted from 1540 to 1550, originated in Kafr 'Ubayda, where there are rocket launchers, and the town of 'Ibrin, where there is long-range artillery. Initial reports said one woman was wounded in the shelling.

Junblatt Sees Approach of 'New Grim Battle'

NC111441 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1345 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Speaking at a rally before leaving for Syria, Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, said: We are approaching a new, grim battle that could be harsher and more ferocious than past battles — the war on the mountain, in Beirut's southern suburb, and in Al-Shahhar. He added: Let us all keep our rifles and bullets, and let us all rise as one man, because we shall fight the Lebanese Army just as we have fought in the past and triumphed.

Junblatt, Birri, Khaddam Meet in Damascus 11 May

NC120651 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] A series of meetings to discuss the Lebanese situation took place in Damascus last night. Of these, the most important was the session held by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt, and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri. They assessed recent developments in both the local and regional arenas. Junblatt and Birri then met with leaders from the Palestinian National Salvation Front and reviewed national Lebanese-Palestinian relations.

Birri Meets PNSF Leaders in Damascus, Discusses Camps

NC091829 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Attorney Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs, met with several leaders of the Palestinian National Salvation Front in Damascus today. They discussed the situation in and around the [Palestinian refugee] camps with regard to measures adopted recently, as well as approval of the Palestinian-Lebanese paper.

Minister Birri also met with Deputy Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi and Jean 'Ubayd and discussed new developments in Lebanon. Minister Birri is expected to meet with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam this evening.

Karami Meets Demonstrating University Students

NC091452 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 9 May 86

[Excerpts] A delegation of students from the American University of Beirut [AUB] and employees of the school's hospital staged a demonstration today. The demonstrators went to Government House to protest the actions and attacks that AUB and its hospital have been subjected to. The latest of these was the abduction of Professor Nabil Matar.

After the delegation met with Prime Minister Karami, one of the students said: We told Prime Minister Karami that the faculty has decided to cancel classes until the kidnapped professors and students are released and until adequate protection is provided to ensure the safety of the university and the security of its professors. We, who represent the silent majority of AUB's students, have announced our support for and solidarity with the faculty. We emphasized that the university must not be closed. The prime minister promised to raise this issue with the Coordination Committee on Monday. He stated that, God willing, all will be well soon.

When the delegation left Government House, the demonstrating students rejected the idea of postponing the discussion of this question with the Coordination Committee until Monday. They shouted their demand to meet with the prime minister and to examine this subject today, as things have become intolerable. Karami came out and addressed the demonstrators, saying:

[Begin recording] [Karami] We welcome you on this day when you have come to voice your complaints against some bad practices, which have led to greater coercion and to greater suffering by the sons of our people. We join you in asking: What is the benefit, and whose interests are served by what you are being subjected to? Your institutions are being exposed to dangers that have forced them to close down and suspend classes. It is as if the perpetrators of these acts are sentencing you to displacement, ignorance, dispersion, and deprivation. This is a great plot against our homeland. I tell them in your name that their plans will fail. We are with you and will not abandon you. We will raise our voices, make every effort, and hold the necessary contacts to stop this plot, which has gone too far. These conspirators have not yet realized that the people alone can defeat all plotters. [applause]

I have told you that we will hold the necessary contacts and take every step to guarantee the release of those who have been detained, and to stop all these practices, which no free, patriotic, or honest Lebanese could accept.

[Unidentified student, interrupting] We want a practical answer. When will such a decision be made?

[Karami] This decision takes effect right now. We will get in touch with everyone who can safeguard the university, its colleges, and hospitals, and every educational institution in Lebanon.

[Second unidentified student, interrupting] In every minute you delay, Dr Matar could die. Any student ... [changes thought] we have Cypriot students who have been kidnapped from inside the university. We are no longer prepared to go there, as we might be kidnapped too.

[Karami] May God protect you. I hope that nothing but good will befall you.

[Several students shout, demanding "practical guarantees".]

[Karami] The guarantee is us together, and our cooperation, God willing, which will protect the university and all its students and teachers, and will raise Lebanon's role as a civilized state.

[Indistinct remarks by several students]

[Karami] None of us accepts the idea of transferring the university out of the western area. [end recording]

Calls for Change in Regime

NC101153 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami has granted a comprehensive interview to Beirut's *AL-SHA'B*. In the interview, the prime minister touched on the issues of the day, foremost among which were the president's visit to Tunisia, the tripartite agreement, and Israel's threats to attack Syria and Lebanon. The prime minister also dealt with the homeland's concerns, the role of the president, and the devastation being experienced by Lebanon. The prime minister said that a solution of the ongoing civil war in Lebanon lies in a change in the present regime in the country. He expressed the conviction that a solution can never be reached under the canopy of this regime; it can only come about when there has been a change of regime. How will this change take place? I have no idea how or when, but I will say that with its current move the regime is going down a blind alley.

Prime Minister Karami was thus referring to President Amin al-Jumayyil's visit to Tunisia as part of his endeavors to gain Arab support for ending the Lebanese crisis. Prime Minister Karami accused the president of having a partisan and sectarian approach to ruling Lebanon, instead of an impartial, enlightened, and sincere attitude that would not favor one sect over another, but would treat all sects equally. The president, the prime minister added, should place a unified, sovereign, and independent homeland above all other considerations.

Touching on the tripartite agreement, which was sponsored by Syria to end the war in Lebanon, Prime Minister Karami told *AL-SHA'B* that salvation lies in the tripartite agreement. This agreement might not be ideal, but on the other hand it is the key to salvation. However, those who were not honest with themselves or with Damascus have found out that disapproval of the agreement serves their interests and goals. Prime Minister Karami went on to say: We have no alternative but to support Lebanon. Whoever fails to coordinate efforts with Syria will end up coordinating efforts with Israel. Therefore, our only option is to side with Syria.

On Israel's threats of attacks against Syria and certain Lebanese areas to put an end to the so-called centers of terrorism, the prime minister said: They are warning us against a new strike. We are expecting it. When the strike takes place, the effects will be slight; fear engendered by waiting is usually worse than the reality. He added that victory will only go to the faithful and devout. Those who bow to the enemy and his masters will lose this time just as they have lost in the past. Their loss will be huge. Prime Minister Karami said that Lebanon has been fragmented into statelets; everyone is indulging his whims in his own statelet and does not wish to give it up. It has been learned that the prime minister did not go to Tripoli as usual today because he is indisposed. He underwent medical checks at the Al-Barbir hospital this morning, and later returned to his house in Tallat al-Khayyat to rest.

Undergoes Kidney Stone Operation

NC120937 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0915 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami has undergone an operation at the American University [Hospital] for the removal of a kidney stone.

Negotiations for Release of Hostages Make Progress

NC110839 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 10 May 86 p 2

[Excerpt] Walid Shuqayr writes: Highly-placed sources have indicated that efforts to resolve the issue of the French and American hostages have made progress. The outcome is expected to be made known soon. Sources close to Damascus and others close to Iran both consider, in view of the information at their disposal, that a solution of the hostages problem might be imminent. Certain sources have even gone so far as to confirm that agreement over this matter has been reached, particularly as regards the French hostages, and only the implementation and timing remain to be settled. Meanwhile, mediators who are working behind the scenes have recently been active in the capitals concerned with the issue.

While some sources say that the behind-the-scene discussions on the question of the hostages have to do with the Americans, others confirm that the case of the French hostages has made more progress. The statement released by the State Department yesterday warning the families of the hostages against concluding any deals with the kidnappers might imply that negotiations are continuing and may be facing certain obstacles. It also indicates that consulations are still going on by pointing out that "U.S. officials are authorized to make efforts to ensure the release of the hostages, including contacts with the kidnappers, but not to pay any ransom or agree to any exchange of prisoners."

Islamic Organizations Reportedly Move Hostages

NC111155 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1125 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has received information from Al-Biqa' to the effect that the extremist Islamic organizations have parceled out the task of moving the foreign hostages. According to the latest statistics, there are 27 hostages, who are of American, French, British, Cypriot, and Irish nationality. The reports say that one group of hostages has been moved to the (Al-Naqraq) area, which lies 30 kms from Ba'labakk and where a Hizballah camp is situated. Another group has been moved to Mahallat al-Tawfiqiyah near Al-Labwah in Ba'labakk. The reports also say that Hizballah has moved a number of Lebanese hostages from the southern suburb of Beirut to Al-Biqa'. It has also been learned that two American hostages were moved from Al-Biqa' to West Beirut last Thursday.

Cypriot Ambassador to Syria Brings Message for Birri

NC091645 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Dr Hasan Yusuf, in charge of Amal Movement foreign relations, has received the Cypriot ambassador to Syria, who brought with him a verbal message from the Cypriot president to minister Nabih Birri. The meeting focused on the situation of the two abducted Cypriot students. Dr Yusuf briefed the Cypriot ambassador on the latest developments regarding this matter and conveyed Minister Birri's indignation regarding this incident.

AUB Students Seek Release of Kidnap Victims

NC091806 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1700 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Students at the American University have continued to act on all levels. They decided this evening to form a committee to contact political and spiritual leaders and ask them to work for the release of the abducted teachers and students.

British Envoy Meets With Foreign Ministry's Al-Turk

NC091511 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, held a round of talks with John Gray, the British ambassador to Lebanon, today. The two men discussed the new political and diplomatic developments affecting the current situation in Lebanon, as well as bilateral relations.

Following the 45-minute meeting, the British ambassador told journalists: Three matters were discussed with Ambassador al-Turk. I will not go into much detail except to say that our talks focused on the issue of the British Embassy's Lebanese employees, their commute between the two sectors of Beirut, and the effect this has on work at the embassy. Second, we discussed bialteral economic relations in general. We have already discussed this matter with Ambassador al-Turk. Third, we comprehensively reviewed the general situation in Lebanon. Asked what policy Britain will adopt in this region in the wake of the recent Tokyo summit conference, the British ambassador replied: Undoubtedly, you have perused the statement and resolutions issued at the Tokyo conference. All the economic and political resolutions, he added, have the support of his government.

Asked what his country's position is on the statement by Yitzhaq Rabin, the enemy's defense minister, that Syria is responsible for the attempt to blow up the EL AL airliner at the British airport of Heathrow, the British ambassador said he has no information on this subject. He expressed his belief that the case is being studied. Regarding the fate of Alec Collett, the British ambassador stated: We are still waiting for definite reports that will tell us whether Collett is alive or not.

Strict Security Measures Taken at Eastern Embassies

NC111159 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Some Eastern embassies in West Beirut have taken strict security precautions during the past 2 days after receiving a series of threats. Reports yesterday said that an abortive attempt to kidnap the Austrian ambassador to Lebanon took place on Wednesday.

Lawyers Cite Al-Asad on Tripartite Agreement

NC091407 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] The Beirut Lawyers Association issued a statement recently citing Syrian President Hafiz Al-Asad at a meeting with members of the Arab Lawyers Union's permanent office yesterday, as having said: What concerns Syria is the spirit of the tripartite agreement. If the Lebanese wish to amend it, we have no objection. Responding to those who have called on Syria to leave Lebanon alone, including Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, President al-Asad said: Shall we leave Lebanon for Israel and have Syria bear the consequences?

The president explained to the delegation the efforts that Syria has made to establish a reconciliation in Lebanon. He regarded the events of 15 January as a coup against the tripartite agreement. Regarding the return of the Palestinians to Lebanon as they were before 1982, President al-Asad said that he is confident that the Lebanese do not want the situation to return to what it was before 1982, adding: I support them in this. He referred to an incident he experienced once while going to Jordan, when he saw a roadblock where Palestinians were examining the identity papers of those passing through.

Al-Huss Calls School, Hospital Attacks Traitorous

NC091902 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1700 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Dr Salim al-Huss has stated that there are those who are acting in an infernal manner to strike at all of the cultural and humanitarian aspects of this country. He said: Whoever attacks the university, the hospital, or the school is, in our view, an agent and an enemy because, by his actions, he is doing a service for the enemies of our people.

Islamic Amal Leader Reportedly Escapes Syrian Arrest

NC091718 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Tomorrow's edition of the magazine *AL-MASIRAH* reports that Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, hid in the village of Al-Nabi Shit during recent clashes between Hizballah and Syrian forces in the town of Ba'labakk because the Syrians were seeking his arrest. The magazine explains that Iranian diplomats later smuggled him out of the village. In the same edition, the magazine also reports that Minister Walid Junblatt awarded a contract to a Romanian firm to build an oil depot at the port in Khaldah.

Amal Gunmen Reportedly Kidnap 7 Druze Men

NC101455 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Amal Gunmen in West Beirut have kidnapped seven Druze men, including two shaykhs, in response to the detention of an Amal member by the Progressive Socialist Party yesterday. Meanwhile, classes have been suspended at the American University in West Beirut for the 2d day running following a decision to this effect by the university's faculty. This move comes in protest at the disappearance of their colleague, Dr Nabil Matar. A source on the faculty's Executive Committee has announced that the strike will continue until Matar returns, and that the professors will accept no compromise.

Amal Denies Report

NC101928 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] An official source in the Fifth Branch of Amal's Central Military Bureau has denied a report carried by the Phalangist Party radio on the detention of some Druze civilians at an Amal roadblock. While denying this story lock, stock, and barrel, the bureau points out that the object of such fabrications is to confuse the security situation in the nationalist areas.

Palestinian Reportedly Killed in 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp

NC111450 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] At approximately 1300 today, a Palestinian nicknamed Kumu was shot and killed by gunmen in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in the south. The entrances to the camp were closed immediately and gunmen were alerted.

Lebanese Forces Call for Ramadan Truce, 'Dialogue'

NC091746 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] This evening, the Executive Committee of the Lebanese Forces issued a statement calling for a military truce during the month of Ramadan to create the climate for a quiet dialogue. The statement said that following their unilateral call for a cease-fire and their adherence to it despite repeated violations by others, the Lebanese Forces — rising above all considerations — again issue a call on the occasion of the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, the month of fasting, worship, and purifying hearts of sins and evils. While congratulating the Muslims on this occasion, the Lebanese forces urge:

1. A Ramadan truce in all Lebanese territories;

2. All Islamic spiritual leaders, especially their eminences Shaykh Hasan Khalid, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, Shaykh Muhammad Abu Shaqra, and Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, to use their influence with the fighters to respect this truce; and,

3. That the Ramadan truce and the spiritual occasion be used to create the proper atmosphere for an objective Lebanese dialogue as soon as possible and to move from a state of truce to a state of permanent and just peace.

Israelis Arrest Citizens, Build Fortifications

NC092125 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] According to information received from the resisting south, an Israeli occupation force advanced as far as the town of Qilya in western Al-Biqa' today. Members of the force searched some houses and carried out a wide-scale combing operation that included the town of Al-Dallashah and the course of the Al-Litani River. A number of citizens were arrested during this operation. Israeli enemy forces brought five military vehicles and three buldozers to the town of Lusi. They immediately began to build several fortifications in and around Mazra'at Lusi, as well as around western Mazra'at (al-Surayr). It has been learned that a number of high-ranking Israeli Army officers supvervised these operations.

Israelis Move 30 Tanks Into Southern Lebanon

NC102006 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Reports from the south have confirmed that the Israelis have made numerous military moves there. Some 30 Merkava and Centurion tanks have entered the area. In the meantime, officers commanding forward units have been ordered to remain completely prepared and fully alert.

Resistance Attacks Israeli Patrol in South

NC111254 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] The Commander Hasan Dawud group of the National Resistance forces set off an explosive device on the Marj 'Uyun road this morning as an Israeli patrol was passing. An enemy tracked vehicle caught fire and those in it were killed or wounded. A clash immediately ensued between the resistance fighters and the enemy soldiers during which automatic weapons and rockets were used. The leader of the group was wounded. However, he and his colleagues managed to withdraw, contrary to the enemy radio's claim that the leader had been captured.

Sham'un Names Syrian 'Terrorist Centers'

NC101104 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1015 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Speaking about the shelling of Halat Airport on President Amin al-Jumayyil's return from Tunisia, former president Camille Sham'un said: This was to be expected. When the airport was shelled while the president was leaving for Tunisia, we were prepared for the same thing to happen on his return.

He added: The Syrians do not waste any opportunity to commit a terrorist or aggressive action. The public should be made aware of this. The issue has to do with Halat Airport and the northern area, where the shelling originated. The Syrians have two terrorist training centers in Al-Kurah district, in the townships of Fi' and Diddah, to be precise. The public, both in Lebanon and abroad, and particularly in those countries which are concerned with fighting terrorism, should know about these things, and realize that the Syrians have special terrorist training centers.

Commenting on the recent remarks made by President Hafiz al-Asad on amending the tripartite agreement, Sham'un said: I do not believe there has been any change of attitude on the Syrians' part. We are not committed to anything called the tripartite agreement.

Muslim Brotherhood Takes Action Against Syrian Army

NC100650 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0445 GMT 10 May 86

[Excerpt] Well informed sources in Tripoli have revealed that Syrian forces have taken extremely violent measures against members of the Islamic Unification Movement within the past few days. The sources noted that the Syrians accuse members of the unification movement of coordinating and allying with the Muslim Brotherhood in carrying out operations against the Syrian regime in both Syria and Lebanon. Political sources in Tripoli believe that the Syrian actions in the capital of the North recall to mind those measures which were taken in the city 10 years ago, when the Syrian forces entered the city. They expect that there will be a series of retaliatory operations between the Syrians and the Islamic Unification Movement.

In another development, persons arriving from the Syrian capital have described an operation carried out by the Muslim Brotherhood against a unit of the Syrian Army commanded by Colonel Tawfiq Yunus. The Syrian colonel was wounded and flown to the Soviet Union for treatement. According to the sources, the Muslim Brotherhood leaked false information to Syrian intelligence about a meeting of their cadres in a house in Damascus. Col Tawfiq Yunis was immeditely ordered to lead a unit of the Syrian Army to surround the house and arrest its occupants. The house, which had previously been mined by members of the Muslim Brotherhood, was blown up when the Syrian unit arrived. The explosion resulted in dozens of casualties.

Following the incident, the Syrian forces arrested a large number of Sunnite Syrians, and charged them with being part of the Muslim Brotherhood organization or acting in coordinatin with it. An information blackout was imposed by the Syrians, in an attempt to conceal the truth about Syrian wrath against the system, and to make the series of explosions on Syrian territory look as though they were part of a foreign campaign against the country. The Syrians believe that by means of this deception they can divert public anger away from the regime.

Syrians Take Measures Against IUM in Tripoli

NC110613 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0545 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement [IUM], has disclosed that tension is high between the Syrians and extremist Muslims in Tripoli. He said that the excesses by certain elements are intended to deprive Tripoli of security and stability and, consequently, to plunge it into anarchy. Sha'ban warned that these dangerous excesses must be stopped. According to exclusive information, the Syrian forces have adopted a series of measures against IUM personnel on charges that they are working in coordination with the Muslim brotherhood and planning to carry out operations against the Syrian forces in Syria and Lebanon.

Syrian Officers in Lebanon Reportedly Executed

NC111430 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1345 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] The magazine *AL-NASHRAH AL-'USBU'IYAH [WEEKLY BULLETIN]*, which is published in Athens, has reported that in the past two weeks the Syrian regime has executed a number of Syrian officers working in Lebanon on the charge of threatening the Syrian state's security and contacting enemy elements. The magazine noted that the execution order had remained secret until the Syrian Army chief of staff's office notified the families of the officers that they had been killed in Lebanon.

Army Warns Against Shelling Halat Airport

NC092010 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] In the wake of this afternoon's bombardment of Halat airport as the president of the republic was returning from Tunisia, the Army Command has issued a statement warning of the consequences these repeated attacks will engender. The Army Command said that it will be compelled to return the fire and silence the source of any shelling. It also requested that citizens who live close to the artillery positions used in the shelling of the airport take the necessary precautions. The statement said that today's bombardment originated from a rocket launcher installed east of Al-Batrun.

Mortar Fire on Mountain; Sniper Fire in Beirut

NC111934 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] The situation became tense on the combat lines on the mountain this evening. The isolationist positions in Al-Qaysariyah shelled the town of Shrin with mortars and opened large-caliber machinegun fire at the town of Al-Dayr. According to another report from the Suq al-Gharb front, the isolationists used their artillery in ('Ayn al-Sayyidah) and (Al-Waddayah) toshell the town of 'Alayh. Machinegun fire has been exchanged on the combat lines on the mountain. Meanwhile, sniper fire was exchanged along the combat lines in the capital this evening. Sniper fire was also reported in Beirut's southern suburb.

Booby-Trapped Car Defused in East Beirut

NC120954 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] The area of Al'Akkawi [East Beirut] escaped catastrophe this morning at the hends of criminals who have gotten used to spreading death among innocent citizens. A military expert defused a booby-trapped car rigged to explode in an area full of pedestrians and inhabitants. According to the information we have received, the explosive charge consisted of 50 kgs of pressurized plastic, the power of which is the equivalent of 200 kgs of TNT. It was connected to 32 electric detonators and an antivehicle mine. The explosive was wrapped in a sheet and placed under the car. The vehicle itself is a Renault-18 with forged number plates, 950745, that belong to a Renault-9.

Additional Denials of Involvement in Terrorism

Al-Sharʿ Interviewed

DW121152 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 12 May 86 p 122

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Sharʿ; date and place not given]

[Text] *SPIEGEL*: Mr Minister: Do you know Mr Hasi and his accomplices who are confined in a Berlin jail and who have testified that they committed the attack against the office of the German-Arab Society in Berlin on Syrian orders?

Al-Sharʿ: We have stated quite often that we abhor terrorism and terrorist actions by states or by individuals. Our embassy in East Berlin has declared in no uncertain terms that we have nothing to do with the action and with these people. We are deeply disturbed at the dissemination of such contentions by the judical authorities in Berlin.

SPIEGEL: The authorities in Berlin state quite definitely that Hasi and his accomplices obtained the bomb from the Syrian Embassy in East Berlin.

Al-Sharʿ: You can say the following in my behalf: It is a lie. It is absolute nonsense. We have officially asked the Federal Government to let Syrian representatives participate in the investigations.

SPIEGEL: Why, do you not trust the German authorities?

Al-Sharʿ: We have good reason to doubt what these assassins have allegedly said. After all, we know perfectly well that there are many political groups which enjoy denouncing Syria only too well.

SPIEGEL: The United States and Israel?

Al-Sharʿ: You know, of course, that those two are just waiting for a chance to launch a military action against us. They propose to terrorize and intimidate us. If we fail to do their bidding in the region, they will try to strike at us militarily. But we will not go down on our knees.

SPIEGEL: Just the same, Reagan has stated quite unequivocally that should there be ample proof that Syria has contacts with terrorism, he will strike just as he did against Libya. Are you expecting that now?

Al-Sharʿ: Reagan should just try it! After all, he did try it in Lebanon, and got a bloody nose. We are prepared to support joint action against terrorism whose victims are innocent civilians.

SPIEGEL: How nice. Why do you grant protection to extremist Palestinians like Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna]?

Al-Sharʿ: Syria is not responsible for the terrorist actions of the groups you mentioned. After all, have I held the Federal Rep[illegible]lic responsible for the terrorist actions of Baader-Meinho[illegible] certainly did not.

Al-Sharʿ Expects Israeli Attack

LD121017 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Kuwait, 12 May (KUNA) — Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Sharʿ has reiterated the readiness frequently expressed by his government to participate in joint action to combat acts of terrorism. He told *AL-QABAS* newspaper that the United States and Israel do not want to combat terrorism.

In a telephone interview conducted by the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-QABAS* and published today in conjuction with the German newspaper *DER SPIEGEL*, Faruq al-Sharʿ rejected charges to the effect that Syria encourages international terrorism, and he denied all connections between his country and those operations in which the United States and Israel are trying to implicate it.

The Syrian foreign minister said that he expects Israel to launch an attack against Syria in conjunction with the United States and warned that his country is capable of inflicting "a very great political defeat on the aggressors."

He pointed out that the current U.S.-Israeli campaign against Syria is intended to intimidate it and uses the pretext of combatting terrorism "which we condemn" in order to launch a U.S.-Israeli attack on Damascus.

He said that Israel created terrorism in the Middle East because it is a state founded on terrorism, and that there are Israeli officials who used to be commanders of criminal Zionist terrorist organizations now holding political and government power in Israel.

The United States, he said, is the only country in the world to practice terrorism officially and publicly in the international arena. He said that there are numerous documents revealing the role of the CIA in acts of terrorism against some Third World countries, "and that Israel and the United States are the last two countries in the world with the right to claim that they want to combat terrorism."

Al-Sharʿ denied that FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher during his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Yugoslavia leveled any charges against Syria or even reproached it about "what is said of Syria's support for terrorist movements."

Papers View 'Threats, Slander'

JN110736 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 May 86

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria Stands Fast and Is Ready for Confrontation" *AL-THAWRAH* says: Syria is currently being subjected to an intensive campaign of pressures and conspiracies in which all Zionist and imperialist forces participate to harm its steadfastness and weaken its national and pan-Arab stands. This campaign is taking place in many forms and covers the political, economic, and military fields within a comprehensive plan of aggression.

While Israel launches threats against Syria, U.S. imperialism manipulates its agents in the region to carry out acts of sabotage and murder in Syria. This is all part of the scenario of false accusations and slander against Syria seeking to harm its ever-increasing role on the international level. It will will not come as a surprise if this campaign escalates and is accompanied by a joint Zionist-imperialist aggression against Syria.

AL-THAWRAH adds that Syria, which embodies and entire nation's will to proceed on the course of freedom and progress, will not give in to the campaign of pressures and threats to which its is being subjected, and will not budge one iota from its progressive national course. Syria does not work in the dark because its declared stands and decisions are explicitly clear. Syria has chosen the course of steadfastness and confrontation out of conviction, faith, and commitment. This choice makes it abide by its stands and militant strategy and also makes it pursue the course of confrontation and challenge; this demonstrates that it insists on attaining strategic balance, the only course for repulsing the imperialist-Zionist onslaught.

Commenting on the same topic *TISHRIN* says: It seems that the Western camp is involved in a forthcoming military adventure that will take place in the Middle East. The campaign of slander by the West is just the prelude of a wide-scale aggression against our Arab nation and its very existence, despite the fact that the overt and direct target of this aggression is Syria and despite the fact that the tool which will carry out this aggression is Israel and perhaps U.S. fleets and missiles.

TISHRIN adds: The U.S.-Israeli campaign of deception and the claims excluding a military adventure seek to throw dust in one's eyes and divert the attention of Syria and the Arabs from the aggression that is being prepared in detail in the hallways of the White House; this plan is with an effective Israeli contribution and particiaption given that it is the instrument of aggression. However, the chances of this deception campaign succeeding are nil and the chances of any military adventure in the region succeeding are next to nothing. In addition, such a military adventure is fraught with perils, may ignite the entire Middle East area, and may also ignite other areas, thus endangering world security and peace. Those who are toying with the idea of carrying out aggression and are preparing for it must realize the perils that are entailed by what they want to do and also must realize that Syria is capable of defending itself with force and firmness.

Commentary Rejects Charges

JN101433 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 10 May 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Over the past few days, senior U.S. officials have made many statements about Syria, terrorism, and U.S. readiness to take disciplinary actions against those who in their opinion are proved to be connected with terrorist acts. It is strange that some of these U.S. officials have contradicted their previous statements and reneged on their previous claims about their desire to hold talks and Syria's positive role in the region. What is more significant is that these statements coincide with Israeli war minister Rabin's visit to Washington and his talks with Vice President George Bush, with the Israeli threats to Syria, and with the current Israeli military preparations near the contact line between the Syrian and Israeli forces.

What has caused this change in the U.S. Administration's thinking? Has it been convinced by the Israeli advice that force is the best means to soften the stands of Syria and the Arabs? Has it been convinced that pressure and saber-rattling can change Syria's principled stands and compel it to stop or reduce its opposition to the Zionist solutions that are meant to be imposed on the region? In all cases, the U.S. Administration is responsible for its actions and the consequences that may arise from them. The United States will pay the price of acquiescing to the wishes of the aggressive, adventurous Israeli rulers, as it acquiesced in the past when it approved the Israeli invasion of Lebanon; this event ended in an Israeli military and political defeat and in a great defeat for U.S. policy in the Middle East.

The cheap talk about a connection between terrorism and Syria does not deceive anybody and will not give anybody moral justification for aggressive actions. Syria is known for its stand on terrorism, its denunciation of it, and its resistance to all its manifestations. The Israeli and U.S. rulers are the last to be expected to speak of terrorism because they have made individual and collective terrorism a state policy, implemented by official government forces and establishments.

It is impossible, both in the short and long run, for the U.S. Administration and the Israeli rulers to hide or erase the line separating terrorism from the legitimate national struggle against occupation and aggression. U.S. officials are mistaken if they believe that using force or threatening to use force is a suitable means of talking to Syria. Syria rejects this method. It does not agree to hold talks either through this method or under its influence. Only 2 days ago, President Hafiz al-Asad asserted that blackmail methods will not work with Syria. What President Hafiz al-Asad says is credible; it carries the power of acquittal [quwwat ibra'] as the Washington rulers know.

In our age, force is no longer the suitable method for dealing and talking with states. The era of the gun, the warship, and threats has gone, never to return. The world power balance does not allow the United States a free hand to change the course of developments in the various parts of the world. He who relies on force as a means of dialogue will undoubtedly lose — both on the world level and on the regional level.

Undoubtedly, there are major differences of opinion between Syria and the United States. These differences arise from their divergent stands on the basic issues in the region and the proposed solutions for them. These differences are not new but can they be solved by force; by political, military, or economic pressures; or by pushing Israel to begin new adventures? Certainly not. Because no matter what the cost, Syria will not drop its demands for implementing the principles of the UN Charter, international law, and the UN resolutions. This means that Syria will not drop its efforts to liberate the Arab territories and restore the usurped Arab rights through a just comprehensive solution based on the principles of the UN Charter and resolutions within the framework of an international conference in which all the parties concerned, the USSR, the United States, and perhaps other states will participate.

The U.S. rulers would do well to review the region's history and the factors that led to deterioration of U.S. prestige in it to derive useful morals. Any confrontation with the peoples of this region and their just cause will eventually lead to a new U.S. defeat.

Three British Diplomats To Be Expelled

JN111138 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1119 GMT 11 May 1986

[Text] The Syrian Foreign Ministry summoned the British ambassador in Damascus this morning, and informed him about the Syrian Government's decision to withdraw [sahb] three diplomats working in the British Embassy in Damascus. They are Colonel David Maitland-Titterton, military attache; David Taylor, first secretary; and Andrew Balfour, third secretary. The Syrian Government gave the diplomats 1 week to leave the country.

This measure is in reply to the British Government's decision to withdraw [sahb] three diplomats, members of the Syrian Embassy in London without any objective justification and despite the fact that the Syrian Embassy had approved to have the three diplomats questioned by the British investigators in the Syrian Embassy building since it is firmly convinced that they have nothing to do with the claims that are attributed to them.

TISHRIN Comments on UK Expulsion of Diplomats

JN111009 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0757 GMT
11 May 86

[Text] Damascus, 11 May (SANA) — The newspaper *TISHRIN* affirms that Britain's deportation of three Syrian diplomats is part of the campaign organized and led by the United States against the Arab nation under the pretext of combating terrorism. In a comment today, the newspaper adds that the United States has achieved a number of successes in this campaign. Its biggest success was the Iraqi intelligence agents' mean and cowardly bombing of public transport vehicles one day after the bombing of Libya, resulting in the death of scores of Syrian citizens.

The newspaper adds: However, these U.S. successes are not the sort of brilliant successes needed to achieve the required objective. The crushing of the Syrian rock, which is the stumbling block before Camp David and the schemes of imposing reconciliation with Israel on the Arab nation, and which is something the United States is looking forward to, is an objective which becomes increasingly difficult to achieve as long as the United States persists in its plots against Syria. The imperialist-reactionary rallying around the U.S. aggressiveness will result in a counterreaction on the Arab level causing the insignificant and pro-American roles to shrink and power in the Arab arena to be handed over to the nationalist current.

The paper affirms that exposing the roles of other imperialists and Arab reactionaries — roles which are strongly linked to the United States — will prevent these sides from absolving themselves from the aggression, evils, and terrorism against this homeland.

Concluding its comment, *TISHRIN* says: The greatest failure awaiting these U.S. successes is the reaction they will cause among the masses to take revenge on the killers and their henchmen in all arenas and on all levels. While looking forward to the factors of strength unifying to defend themselves, our masses simultaneously look forward to using their arms to punish those committing aggression against them.

USSR Intends To Supply MiG-31 Fighters

GF120746 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0735 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 May (WAKH) — Press reports here today indicated that the Soviet Union intends to supply Syria with its most sophisticated fighter aircraft, the MIG-31, and that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad had asked for these fighters during his secret visit to Moscow in February.

Citing well-informed sources the UAE newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* reported that Syria expressed interest in the advanced fighters after it was agreed to supply it with MIG-29 fighters, which it will receive this year. The fighters MIG-29 and MIG-31 constitute a suitable response, in terms of capability, to F-15 and F-16 fighters used by the Israeli Air Force.

5 Charged With Damascus Explosions Interviewed

JN091124 [Editorial Report] Damascus Television Service in Arabic, in a hookup with Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic, at 2006 GMT on 8 May carries a 102-minute videotaped interview with five "Iraqi regime agents" accused of "committing acts of murder and sabotage" in Syria on 16 April. The interviews are conducted by an unidentified man who speaks separately with all five detainees.

The first, interviewed for 45 minutes, introduces himself as follows: "I am Muwaffaq Shartah from the city of Hamah, born in 1960 and work as a car mechanic in Hamah." He adds: "I joined the Muslim Brotherhood organization in 1981. At the beginning of 1982 I was asked to go to Iraq for training in the Muslim Brotherhood camp." He then describes how he left for Iraq and was trained for 15 days in the use of weapons and explosives. He says he stayed in Iraq until the eruption of the Hamah incidents. He returned to Hamah, he took part in these incidents, and was wounded. Following this he fled with others to Iraq where he contacted a man named Abu Bashir whom, he says, "has full coordination with the Iraqi intelligence servive."

His first mission, he adds, was when he and Fawwaz Tabba', known as Abu Mus'ab and also born in Hamah in 1960, crossed into Syria from Iraq with weapons which they kept at a farm in Hamah. Their next trips to and from Iraq were made via Turkey and both used false identification cards supplied by Iraq. The interviewer displays forged identity cards, explosives, timers, and machineguns which Shartah immediately recognizes.

Shartah then says he and Abu Mus'ab were supplied with money to recruit others in Syria who could help them carry out acts of sabotage there. Regarding his last mission, Shartah says he was in Baghdad when the Iraqis, represented by Abu Bashir, ordered him and Abu Mus'ab to carry out an operation in Syria on 16 April, the anniversary marking Syria's evacuation day. They flew to Istanbul with faked Iraqi passports and then to Antakya where a man named Abu Usamah supplied them with weapons and helped them travel to Syria.

In Hamah they stayed at the home of a man they knew and on Wednesday, 16 April, Shartah and a man recruited in Hamah called 'Abd al-Wahhab Isma'il left for Homs with three suitcases full of explosives which Shartah planted on microbuses at the city bus station before he and his accomplice returned to Hamah on the same day. Abu Mus'ab left for Damascus with a man recurited in Hamah called 'Umar 'Akkam carrying four explosive-filled suitcases which Abu Mus'ab planted in buses at the Damascus bus station. "On Monday I was arrested and Abu Mus'ab was killed," says Shartah. The interviewer presents a photo of a dead man whom Shartah identifies as Abu Mus'ab. Concluding, Shartah says: "The Iraqis supplied us with everything: weapons, funds, houses, and all personal needs." He added, "If we refused to do something we would be liquidated" by the Iraqis.

The second interviewee introduces himself as 'Abd al-Wahhab Isma'il, born in Hamah Province in 1963. He says he had no political activities and adds that in September 1985 he was approached by Abu Mus'ab and Muwaffaq Shartah, friends of his brother 'Abdallah Isma'il, a Muslim Brother who was killed in Hamah. Both sought his help in renting a house and getting information about some people. They then asked him to help carry out an operation against public transportation vehicles. On 16 April he and Shartah left for Homs carrying three rigged suitcases which the latter planted on city buses there before returning to Hamah on the same day.

The third interviewee is 'Umar 'Akkam, who was born in Hamah Province in 1968 and works as a mechanic. He says Abu Mus'ab and Shartah, who knew his uncle, stayed in his home and used him to buy whatever they needed from the market and to provide transportation for them in return for money and gifts. The two men brought suitcases with them and placed explosives in them. 'Akkam and Abu Mus'ab on 16 April took four suitcases and left for the Damascus bus station where Abu Mus'ab planted them in public transportation vehicles.

The last two interviewees are Mustafa al-Bayraq and his cousin, Muhammad al-Bayraq. Both men were born in Bakhshim in Antakya, Turkey, in 1962 and work as farmers and say they smuggled Syrian defectors to and from Turkey in return for large sums of money. One day Abu Mus'ab told them to leave Turkey for Aleppo, where two men gave them two suitcases full of explosives which they planted on the Aleppo-Latakia train. They were arrested in their hotel in Aleppo. Both speak a Syrian dialect, but with some difficulty.

Throughout the interviews, pictures of victims of the explosions are shown, as well as shots of weapons, including explosives, bullets, pistols, machineguns, and other equipment.

Prime Minister Confers With Lebanon's Birri

JN111301 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Damascus — Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm received Nabih Birri, Lebanese minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs, minister of justice and hydroelectric resources, and Amal movement leader, at 1300 today.

During the meeting, talks revolved around the current situation in the region and the latest develeopments in the Lebanese arena.

USSR Solidarity Committee Official Visits

Confers With Al-Zu'bi

JN101343 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Damascus — (Olgar Bagir Slemanov), deputy chairman of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity With Asian and African Countries and member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has reaffirmed his country's firm supprot for the liberation struggle waged by the Arab people in Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad in confronting the aggressive imperialist and Zionist schemes against the Arab region. (Slemanov) expressed his great admiration for the cultural accomplishments in Syria despite the current circumstances.

This came when People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi received (Slemanov) and his delegation this morning along with the deputy chairman of the Syrian-USSR Solidarity Committee and USSR Ambassador in Damascus Felix Fedotov.

Al-Zu'bi stressed that Syria is firm in its militant stands under President Hafiz al-Asad and emphasized Syria's solid resistance and confrontation of all forms of pressures and threats against it and the Arab nation by relying on its own resources and on the assistance of the forces of peace and progress led by the friendly USSR. Al-Zu'bi highly appreciated the USSR's stands supporting the just Arab causes. He also hailed the firm relations based on the friendship and cooperation treaty between Syria and the USSR, including the strong parliamentarian relations characterized by understanding, cooperation, and coordination on bilateral and international levels concerning all issues of mutual interest.

Talks Conclude

JN101908 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1815 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Damascus — The final session of talks between the Syrian Solidarity Committee delegation led by Comrade Ahmad al-As'ad, deputy chairman of the committee; and the Soviet Solidarity Committee delegation led by Comrade (Olgar Bagir Slemanov), deputy chairman of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity With Asian and African Countries, was held at the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee headquarters in Damascus at 1800 today. During this session, the two sides completed discussion of the two committees' activities and cooperation between them. The two sides also stressed the need to promote these activities based on the distinguished relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the CPSU and between the peoples of the two friendly countries whose firm bases were laid by comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU general secretary.

The guest delegation stressed the USSR's principled and firm support for our people's struggle for liberation and for our country's principled stand under President Hafiz al-Asad to confront the imperialist U.S. hegemony and the expansionist Israeli aggression against the Arab nation.

Grand Mufti Urges Iraq-Iran Cease-Fire, Dialogue

JN101016 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1000 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] On the occasion of the beginning of the blessed month of Ramadan, His Eminence Shaykh Ahmad Kaftaru, the grand mufti of Syria, has addressed an appeal for a cessation of fighting between Iraq and Iran. He called on both sides to begin a dialogue.

AL-THAWRAH Views NATO's 'Provocative Maneuvers'

JN100816 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 10 May 86

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "NATO Maneuvers and the Imperialist Escalation Campaign," *AL-THAWRAH* says: The provocative maneuvers begun by the NATO rapid deployment forces in the Mediterranean are a part of the imperialist escalation campaign waged by the United States and the imperialist forces against the Arab nation. These maneuvers, which are taking place in the vicinity of our region, entail many dangers for the Arab liberation movement because they are taking place at a time when the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy is intensifying against the Arab nation, as represented by the recent U.S. aggression against Libya and the campaign of lies and hostile threats led by U.S. imperialism against the Arab steadfast forces headed by Syria.

With such a policy and with such timing, the world forces of evil and aggression are trying to impose their hegemony on the destinies of the region and to prevent the Arab nation from determining its own destiny and continuing its legitimate national struggle to liberate its occupied territory and to regain its usurped rights.

The paper adds: It is obvious that the return of these forces to gunboat diplomacy is bound to increase tension in the Middle East and expose world peace and security to the gravest dangers. It is essential to emphasize here that this will neither scare people nor prompt them to submit to the status quo. The Arab masses are determined to confront all hostile plans and reject the policy of threat and blackmail. The Arab liberation movement has resolved to escalate its national struggle. It will not pay attention to the campaigns of threats and provocations so long as its declared decision is to defend Arab territory and existence and to wage all-out confrontation against the imperialist and Zionist forces and their hostile plans. In the end, Arabs will achieve their just objectives and foil all the plans and plots of the imperialist forces, depending on their own resistance and the support of world freedom and peace forces for their just struggle.

Dailies Comment on Tokyo Summit, U.S. Aggression

JN120658 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 12 May 86

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Where Are They Heading?" *AL-BA'TH* commentary says: The feverish hysterical campaign against Sryia has taken extremely serious dimensions not only from the angle of its terrorist, propagandist nature but also from its executive aspect represented by the British Government's arbitrary measure against three members of our embassy staff in London. No observer can view this measure as a diplomatic incident dissociated from any objective, especially since the Zionist-U.S. campaign of threats against Syria is escalating. The military summit recently held in Tokyo under the leadership of the United States adopted several decisions that pose danger to world peace and security on the pretext of combating terrorism. Many of these decisions may have been kept secret, particularly those related to war and aggression. We are recalling that war summit because those who met in the Japanese capital under the U.S. umbrella fixed their eyes on the Middle East through maps of aggression which Washington had prepared in advance and through statements about terrorism and which were given prominence in their vairous news media.

Concluding, the paper says: Despite the techniques of deception they mobilized, their rabid campaign failed as neither the world public opinion was behind them nor did Syria yield to their terrorism. We emphasize with full self-confidence that our people received and continue to receive the waves of intimidation and threats with iron nerves and with scorn for those fabricating the clamor surrounding us. The anticipated aggression will not be the first of its kind and our triumph over our nation's enemies will not be the first and only one. Therefore, where are they heading?

Regarding the tension the United States and Israel are creating in the region and under the headline "Talk About Aggression," a *TISHRIN* commentary says: The aggression against Libya by the two strategic allies the United States and Israel and their premeditated aggression against Syria is not aimed at Syria only but also the entire Arab nation. Israel, which is backed by the United States, today constitutes more than ever before a real source of terrorism. It is occupying Arab territories and is practicing against the inhabitants the ugliest forms of repression and savagery. It is also continuing its aggression against the Arab nation. The U.S. and Israeli attempts are part of the ceaseless efforts to undermine Syria and paralyze its determination to continue struggle against their hostile plans and schemes.

The two strategic allies are certainly deluded if they think that the policy of intimidation and that of massing fleets and forces and threatening to commit aggression will frighten Syria or dissuade it from continuing to build its power along the road of attaining a strategic balance with the enemy and to continue its oppostiion to the capitulatory and liquidatory schemes. The Syrian people and their Armed Forces under the great Arab struggler Hafiz al-Asad will not succumb, but will confront their plans and aggression with what they deserve.

Peres Warns Cyprus on Releasing Larnaca Murderers

TA111206 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 May 86 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir, Oren Kohen, and AP]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has warned the Cypriot Government against daring to release the murderers of the Israelis in Larnaca. In an interview with *HADASHOT*, Peres described the Cypriot Government's intention to pardon the three murderers as "scandalous." "Israel," said Peres, "will warn Cyprus not to dare do anything of the kind." The Israeli Embassy in Cyprus conveyed a harsh message to the Cypriot Government on its intention to release the murderers.

The Cypriot authorities deny that a deal was decided on with the terrorist organizations. A report publicized in Israel on Friday stated that the PLO had suggested an exchange deal with Cyprus. As part of the deal, the PLO would release two Cypriot students who were kidnapped in Beirut last week in exchange for the murderers of the Israelis.

Peres Calls Anti-SDI Statements 'Irresponsible'

TA111640 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres today rejected the criticism against Israel's joining the SDI project, saying that this criticism was irresponsible. The prime minister met the members of the National Council for Research and Development a short while ago, and enumerated the main issues which must constitute a national priority in scientific research. Our correspondent Yinon Shenkar reports:

[Begin recording] [Peres] Why shouldn't Israel participate in the development of such weapons, which are vital for its security? If there is somebody who thinks that this harms the Soviet Union, well, I have a simple suggestion for him: Let the Soviet Union stop supplying missiles, and then Israel would not have to search for weapons against missiles. The Soviet Union is the greatest supplier of missiles in the Middle East: ground-to-ground missiles, ground-to-air missiles, sea-to-sea missiles, ground-to-sea missiles, and so on.

[Shenkar] In his meeting with members of the National Council for Research and Development the prime minister said that Israel's technological potential puts us on a par with NATO countries' capabilities in security-related development. He said that in the near future Israel will have to face four main issues in the area of scientific research: Updating the old equipment in the universities, the universities' budget, students' tuition fees, and paying attention to theoretical as well as applied research.

[Peres] As in other areas here, too, we have realized what should be done, but then we do not pursue what has to be done, and university education in Israel consequently suffers. This is a grave mistake. University education gives us the right people and opportunities. [End recording]

Peres Discusses Relations With Arab States, Economy

TA100737 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew
7 May 86 pp 9, 10, 11, 56

[Interview with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Yosef Argaman and Ya'ir Ben-David; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [*BAMAHANE*] Mr Peres, with your permission we will discuss some political matters. First the subject of contacts with Jordan. Vice Prime Minister Shamir said not too long ago that quiet contacts were being held with Jordan, and we heard on the news that Husayn was not very happy about this report. Is there still room for optimism regarding these contacts?

[Peres] I do not think I act in terms of optimism or pessimism. I act according to active and passive terms. The question as I see it is whether you are active and maintain an initiative, or whether you react to the initiatives of others. I think it is vital for Israel to maintain the initiative. It seems to me that to a great extent it has done this. Some of our efforts have yielded results; some have yet to do so. But this is not cause to stop taking the initiative, because if we do not take it, others will.

[*BAMAHANE*] In any event, how do relations with Jordan now stand?

[Peres] There are constant misunderstandings. The United States is between Jordan and us, and is maintaining the quiet contacts. I am not going to say that there is a breakthrough. The United States is trying to bridge the gap between us and the Jordanians, as it tried to do between us and Egypt. The situation is multifaceted, and many changes have taken place. Some of them represent suitable and positive potential, while others are cause for concern. What is clear is that since the establishment of the national unity government the war in Lebanon has stopped, negotiations with Egypt have resumed, a liberal policy has been adopted in the territories, and the United States is holding contacts between Jordan and Israel. In addition, the war against terrorism has ceased to be a concern solely for Israel. The United States has become involved in this war, and European countries have followed in its footsteps. This is a tremendous change, and Israel is not being blamed for the outbreak of terrorism. This is because people believe that Israel is making a most sincere effort to solve the problem, and that the problem is continuing due to the PLO's position, not Israel's.

In addition to all this, it should be remembered that a public, official rift has developed between Jordan and the PLO. I attach much importance to this because until now these two were like one, with the PLO benefitting the most from this situation. When we said "no" to the PLO, the world would not accept this. Now an Arab leader gets up and says: Nothing can be achieved with the PLO leadership. This is a development which, although it is still too early to say it has yielded results, has certainly altered the situation.

There are two other changes that should be mentioned and followed. One involves the fluctuations in the Iran-Iraq war. This has direct implications for Jordan's security situation, Saudi Arabia's security situation, and even the domestic situation of countries such as Egypt and Syria.

[*BAMAHANE*] Could you explain?

[Peres] If Iran wins, for example, Shi'ite forces everywhere will undergo a shock. An Iranian-Syrian coalition, also encompassing Jordan, might develop which would threaten Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The main issue concerning the Arabs today is the economic one. In general, this issue has become more and more pertinent, because the entire world has become one large village, economically speaking, and any local economy is extremely dependent on the world economy. For example, look how the Israeli economy is affected by changes in the U.S. dollar rates against European currencies. This affects us daily. At the moment the Arab world is in the grips of an unprecedented economic crisis. The loss of income from oil to the tune of approximately $70 billion has also affected countries that do not produce oil because they have citizens working in the oil-producing Gulf states. The economic crisis affects tourism; it affects traffic through the Suez; it affects agricultural production. There is one country which in my opinion has really been destroyed economically, namely Syria. From what I read, the Syrians' GNP dropped by 10 percent last year. There was no growth there. They had a 10-percent deterioration, and Syria is now down to its last cent of foreign currency.

[*BAMAHANE*] Could this affect our relations with Syria?

[Peres] It will first have an internal effect on that country. There is unrest in Syria.

[*BAMAHANE*] How will this affect relations with Israel, if at all?

[Peres] Although I am not a prophet, I would say that logically this will force Syria to make a tremendous effort to prevent economic collapse. This is a serious danger. However, I do not suggest that anyone rely on logic as far as our relations with the Arabs are concerned. As an observer, of course, I would follow and take note of how they overcome the economic situation. However, as an Israeli I need to constantly keep my focus on the ground, to see any movement there.

[*BAMAHANE*] What is happening regarding ties between us and the Soviet Union? Recently there have been recurrent hints on this issue. Where do we stand at present?

[Peres] Regretfully there has been no real progress, except perhaps for the talk about a Polish representation in Israel, which I hope will indeed materialize. It is difficult to talk about a breakthrough in relations with the Soviet Union, just as it is difficult to talk about a breakthrough in relations between the two superpowers. It is very possible that the relationship between the Soviet Union and Israel is nothing but a function of the relationship between the superpowers. Since no change has occurred there, we do not see any change either.

[*BAMAHANE*] Is there also no change in the situation of Soviet Jews following the rise of Gorbachev to power?

[Peres] No, there has been no real change. There were gestures here and there, such as the release of Shcharanskiy and similar actions.

[*BAMAHANE*] We will conclude this section on foreign relations with a question on relations with Egypt. Has there been any change in these relations in the wake of the progress in the negotiations on arbitration?

[Peres] The negotiations are not yet over. I hope that when the negotiations are over we will see more results. However, there have already been some results. There is an agreement to search for the missing crew of the *Daqar* submarine. The remains of two IDF soldiers who were missing have been returned. There are trade concessions, and there are visits in both directions.

[*BAMAHANE*] Will the search for the *Daqar* be carried out directly by us or by the Americans?

[Peres] By the Americans. We do not have the necessary equipment. The searches would have already begun had the U.S. equipment not been engaged in the search for the missing *Challenger* crew.

[*BAMAHANE*] Is there a chance of a summit meeting between you and the Egyptian president before your term as prime minister expires?

[Peres] Not before the arbitral compromis is concluded.

[*BAMAHANE*] Mr Peres, let us move on to the subject of the Israeli economy. Do you think we have passed the point of no return in inflation?

[Peres] There is no such thing as a point of no return. A mistake can always be repeated, but we have reached a point from which we can move on to growth. In other words, the necessary conditions have been created to allow us to embark on a growth plan while maintaining economic stability.

[*BAMAHANE*] When will we see the first signs of growth?

[Peres] Some can already be seen. According to predictions, this year, after a long break, we will attain a 3 percent increase in our GNP. Growth can also be seen in an increase of exports from Israel of 6 to 7 percent last year, and 18 percent this year. We are now about to approve a large-scale construction program, albeit not with government financing, comprising seven or eight large projects which entail hundreds of millions of dollars. We have set up a task force to develop a plan for economic independence. Naturally it takes time for things to materialize.

[*BAMAHANE*] What plans do you want to complete before the rotation?

[Peres] I have no such plans. I have plans regarding what the government should do, and I do not consider them a personal matter. I do not think the government will change its policy after the rotation. If it changes its policy, there will be no government. I try not to think of my work in personal terms. I have seen many people who think in personal terms, and ultimately they conduct a personal policy. I am not sitting here in order to implement a personal policy. If I can make a comment half-jokingly, I am a persona who is trying to represent the policy of the State of Israel.

Further Reports, Comment on Possible Syrian Clash

Cabinet Discusses Situation

TA111151 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1110 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Among the issues the Cabinet discussed today was the situation between Israel and Syria. The Cabinet session ended approximately an hour ago, and our political correspondent is right there, near the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem.

[Schiffer] The policymakers in Jerusalem have been making an effort to calm the mood with regard to the Syrian issue, and Prime Minister Shim'on Peres operated along the same lines today. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will act similarly in a few hours, in a news conference scheduled for him at the airport upon his return from the United States. Mr Peres raised the Syrian issue at the beginning of the Cabinet session and emphasized that there are no signs that would indicate that Syria is planning to take action against Israel. Likewise, Israel has no intention of acting against Syria. At the same time, the prime minister emphasized that world public opinion is gradually pointing the finger at Syria in connection with international terrorism, which is a trend that Israel should encourage. Let us hear Cabinet Secretary Dr Yosi Beilin, speaking after the Cabinet session.

[Begin recording] [Beilin] At today's Cabinet session, the prime minister said that Israel would do everything in its power to prevent a war with Syria, but the world must do everything to put an end to international terrorism and Syria's involvement in it. Economic and diplomatic measures can be taken against terrorism, and Israel will participate in the international effort to guarantee the safety of air routes and curb terrorism. The prime minister reported on a message he had received from U.S. Secretary of State Mr George Shultz which included, in addition to an announcement on the transfer of the first installment of the special aid, an expression of appreciation for the achievements scored through the policy adopted during the last fiscal year and an expression of hope that this policy will continue.

The Cabinet also discussed the demographic trends in the Jewish population.

[Schiffer] Mr Beilin, what is the background for the prime minister's announcement on the Syrian issue?

[Beilin] Clearly the background is the reports published last week, or over the past few days, alledging a pervasive atmosphere of violence, or of war. The purpose of this announcement and other statements issued late last week is to make it clear that, certainly from Israel's side, this is not true.

[Schiffer] Could you point specifically to the party that may have been interested in heating up the atmosphere between Israel and Syria?

[Beilin] One can assume that more than just one element that could benefit from this is involved, and perhaps the impression that it was the PLO this time is quite true.

[Schiffer] On the other hand, according to numerous reports, we have learned that the terrorist who wanted to plant the bomb on the El Al plane in London, through the services of a woman, was briefed by and met with the Syrian ambassador to London.

[Beilin] Yes, and what I have just said does not contradict this report, although I for one have not obtained any special or final confirmation of this. However, there is a difference, as the prime minister pointed out at today's Cabinet session, between terrorism, which must be fought, and war.

[Schiffer] Thank you very much. [End recording]

[Schiffer] Well, then, Israel is trying to generate a general atmosphere of calm, but at the same time it points a finger at Syria in terms of its connection to international terrorism. Here, Israel's position is firm: The Israeli Government will take action against international terrorism and anyone who dispatches people to participate in terrorist acts.

Another matter which was discussed at today's session was the Sabbath disturbances in Petah Tiqva and Haifa [over the license to various movie theaters to screen films on the Sabbath], raised by Minister Yosef Burg, who also proposed a bill banning the desecration of the Sabbath in public. A dispute ensued, involving Minister Amnon Rubinstein, who argued that the body responsible for the violation of the status quo is first of all the government which supports religious legislation, and added that any person who drives his car on the Sabbath is also violating the sanctity of the Sabbath in public. Thus, he added, if Minister Burg's bill is adopted, we will all be susceptible to breaking this law. Prime Minister Shim'on Peres addressed this matter at the session and said that he would ask the attorney general to check whether the incidents in Petah Tiqva and Haifa constituted a violation of the status quo.

Peres Urges 'Lower Profile'

TA120855 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 May 86 pp 1, 2

[Report by Yosi Melman, Shim'on Weiss, and ITIM]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres suggests that ministers "lower their profile" and moderate their remarks about Syria. In his opinion, it is better to leave it to the United States and President Ronald Reagan — and not Israel — to attack and criticize Syria for its involvement in international terrorism.

Peres also stressed that it is preferable to point out Damascus' part in fostering terrorism than to comment on issues connected with its military deployment. The prime minister made these suggestions which several ministers interpreted as "directives for our information policy." During yesterday's weekly Cabinet session, Peres again declared that Israel would do everything in its power to prevent a war with Syria, "but the world must do everything necessary to put an end to international terrorism and Syria's involvement in it."

The prime minister pointed out that economic and diplomatic measures can be implemented against terrorism "before resorting to war cries," and that Israel will participate in the international effort to safeguard air routes and block terrorism.

Peres praised the British Government for expelling three Syrian diplomats who were involved in an attempted terrorist act, and praised the United States for its recent statements against Syrian terrorism.

As for Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks in the United States, the prime minister said they could not be defined as "a bellicose statement." According to Peres, Rabin said that were an El Al plane attacked in flight, Israel would have to retaliate. Rabin, who returned last night from a visit to the United States, said that the decision to carry out an attack on the El Al plane in London was made in Syria not by the low echelon, but was directed and implemented under the jurisdiction of an authorized Syrian body. This, he said, requires that Israel examine what is happening in this arena.

Syria, he added, currently uses two arenas for terrorism against Israel: one is in the security zone in Lebanon, where it operates through the services of such forces as Amal, Hizballah, and the Palestinians; the other is in Europe, where Syria recently expanded its terrorist activity. The minister clarified that there is not necessarily a connection between our desire to fight terrorism, which Syria encourages in Lebanon and Europe, and the danger of a military confrontation between us and Syria on the Golan Heights. Israel has no interest in a military confrontation and it appears that Syria, too, does not want a war at the moment. At the same time, however, we must continue to act against terrorism in Lebanon and against Syrian terrorism in Europe.

Rabin: Policy of No Confrontation

TA111520 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin returned from the United States a short while ago and said that Israel has an interest in preventing a military confrontation with Syria, adding that he hopes and believes this is also the Syrians' stance. Our military correspondent Gay Zohar heard the defense minister:

[Begin Rabin recording; in progress] At the same time, Syria has lately extended the terrorist arena to Europe, as well. Judging by the best information in our possession, the decision to perpetrate the terrorist act on the El Al plane in London was not made at a low echelon. It was worked out and implemented under the responsibility of an authoritative Syrian body. This constitutes a novelty, a grave novelty, with regard to Syria's policy outside Lebanon, specifically in Europe, which compels us to examine this situation. There is not necessarily a connection between our desire and the absolute necessity, the need, to fight Syrian-encouraged terrorism in Lebanon and in Europe, and the danger of the eruption of an Israeli-Syrian military confrontation. It seems to me that in handling each of the problems we are facing we must distinguish between the different arenas and the different codes of behavior. Israel's policy is to prevent and deter a military confrontation between Israel and Syria. [End recording]

Rabin: No Request for U.S. Aid

TA111615 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] The defense minister says Israel has not asked the United States to help it deal with Syria. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that Minister Yitzhaq Rabin returned this afternoon from his visit to the United States. According to Rabin tension in our region has increased recently because Syria extended its terrorist activity to Europe and is now willing to take greater risks in this area than before.

The defense minister emphasized that Israel wants to prevent a war with the Arab states, but at the same time it must remain alert and make sure there is no deterioation. Minister Rabin noted that because of the U.S. attack in Libya tension in several Arab states, including Syria, has increased, and the Syrian involvement in Lebanon has also increased.

'Source' Confirms Military Buildup

TA121355 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1347 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] An AP source in Israel has reported that an Israeli military source has confirmed reports that Syria is preparing tank ditches and is also building fortifications in eastern Lebanon as part of the Syrian Army's preparations for a war with Israel. The Israeli military source nonetheless emphasized that there are no signs that would indicate that the Syrian Army is readying for an immediate attack on Israel and the dugouts in eastern Lebanon do not have any equipment. We repeat: This was reported to an AP correspondent in Jerusalem.

On the same matter: The commander of the UN forces on the Golan Heights has said that quiet prevails along both sides of the Israeli-Syrian border and both parties are adhering to their agreements. Interviewed by our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz, the UN commander said that the Syrians are engaged in normal activity on the Golan. He claimed this activity was quiet, adding that he was unable to notice any new Syrian construction work along the Israeli border.

Ori Or: War Not 'Inevitable'

TA120614 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0600 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] The commander of the Northern Command has said that Israel does not believe that a war with Syria is inevitable and he does not believe there will be such a war in the near future. Commander Ori Or thinks that Israel is now strong enough to guard the northern borders.

Our correspondent Gabi Zohar reports that the commander of the Northern Command was speaking at a meeting with commanders of the UN force on the Golan Heights.

Chief of Staff Comments

TA111103 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
11 May 86 p 13

[Report by military correspondent Yosef Walter]

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi said in a news conference to military correspondents on Friday that recently Syrian nervousness and talk of an atmosphere of war have increased.

This situation, the chief of staff said, is the result of several incidents: the interception of the Libyan plane, which caused the Syrians to adopt a prolonged state of alert; the U.S. raid on Libya on 15 April; and the accusation of Syria as being involved in the attempt to plant a suitcase full of explosives on an El Al plane at London's Heathrow Airport.

The chief of staff stressed that Syria is afraid of U.S. or Israeli reprisals, and that recently Syrian preparations to meet an attack has been noted.

According to Lt Gen Levi, this creates a delicate situation. The transition from this situation to one of initiation, that is, to a Syrian attempt to attack Israeli targets or to bring about an escalation on the border, is much easier than the transition from a normal situation to one of initiation.

The chief of staff stated that there is something in the concept of an atmosphere of war that can affect the chain of events. The situation that exists today can be interpreted either way: There are those who claim that the situation might develop into war, while others contend it would be illogical for Damascus to wage war against Israel.

Lt Gen Levi warned against making statements and being drawn into a verbal escalation, because one statement or another can create additional tension which, in turn, accelerates moves.

Nevertheless, the chief of staff said that most of the Syrian force had left Lebanon and was organized in the area between the international border on the Golan Heights and Damascus. For this reason Israel must observe developments more thoroughly and carefully.

Thus the IDF is prepared for a possible attempt by Syria to initiate some move. The IDF is continuing its regular activities on the Golan Heights.

The chief of staff added that it is clear that Syria is largely involved in international terrorism, but that this is done quietly.

He said: "The Syrians serve as an infrastructure for terrorism more than any other country I know. This is a significant degree of involvement which sometimes exceeds that of Libya."

The chief of staff also spoke about other military and security issues:

Career service: According to Lt Gen Moshe Levi, the IDF is still in the grips of a crisis. An accumulation of factors have exacerbated the problem, not only in terms of its extent, but also in terms of the atmosphere that has been created. He said: "We must create the conditions and motivation in the IDF that will entice people to continue in the career service because our lives depend on it."

International action on terrorism: "Today there is more awareness of and action by more and more countries against terrorism. This is a positive process. I am not overly optimistic about the chances of the whole world banding together against the problem, but it is the correct action. Difficulties are also encountered in identifying the involvement of different countries in terrorism. Syria, as said, is more dominant than Libya in this matter. I am not concluding that as a result of this steps will be taken against Syria. However, the process itself is one that must continue."

Soldiers missing in the "Peace for Galilee" operation: There have been no breakthroughs which could lead to some information on the whereabouts of the missing soldiers. Israel is continuing to deal with the matter, both from an intelligence standpoint, and by utilizing international contacts.

The cut in the defense budget: There are areas where it appears the IDF cut too much. If we have reached a point where company commanders are getting stuck without gas, then it seems that some things need to be corrected because the effect of such a phenomenon is very great.

Lebanon and terrorism: The occupation of the security zone and the deployment of the IDF along the purple line has proved itself. It is difficult to draw conclusions from this temporary success, because Lebanon's instability is the factor that affects the chain of events and can turn everything upside down in a flash.

Terrorism in Judaea and Samaria: Recently standard weapons, especially demolition charges, have been found in Judaea and Samaria.

Levi: Must Remain Vigilant

TA111229 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1153 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi said that we must be ready to foil or ward off any Syrian attempt to launch a sudden strike against us. Speaking to soldiers and representatives of northern settlements, the chief of staff said that at the same time we must not be dragged into the bellicose atmosphere which Syria is stirring up.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Yo'el Dar] The chief of staff's tour of several IDF units seemed to indicate that all the talk of mounting tension along the Syrian border is groundless. We must pursue our daily chores routinely and must carry out our duties without being dragged into the warlike atmosphere which has been so topical recently, Chief of Staff Lt Gen Moshe Levi said, adding:

[Levi] We have been hearing all sorts of things about Syria and everyone purports to know precisely what it does and why, and even what it is about to do. I suggest that we not be dragged into this atmosphere, and also that we not assume that just because there is all this commotion nothing will actually happen.

We must pursue our own path: It is necessary to be on the alert, to be able to defend ourselves against a sudden strike. This must be done in accordance with the circumstances and the intelligence we have, assuming that there is always room for the unexpected.

[Dar] Speaking to soldiers and representatives of northern settlements on Independence Day, the chief of staff assessed the effect of the IDF's pullback from Lebanon, on the occasion of its 1st anniversary.

[Levi] We managed to move this part of the defense effort, this aspect of our sphere of responsibility, one step ahead, and I think that I will not be doing the truth an injustice by honestly claiming that in the balance of things, we have marched one step forward. This is the real test.

I say that it would be absolutely impossible to preserve the effects of this success if we do not all make our contribution and further efforts. There is too much instability in this region, too many elements want to sabotage the situation, and any loophole we leave open to them will be exploited to harm us. [End recording]

Sources 'Infuriated' by CBS Report

TA091815 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Israeli sources in the United States were infuriated by the CBS TV report that Israel is planning an attack against Syria because of its involvement in the attempt to blow up an El Al plane in London.

The sources have told our Washington correspondent that in all his appearances in the United States the defense minister repeated his emphasis that the most successful war, from Israel's viewpoint, is the war that will not occur. However, our correspondent notes that Israel is currently making a considerable attempt to explain to the U.S. public that Syria is linked with the acts of terrorism.

Easing of Tension Sought

TA110650 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 11 May 86

[Studio talk between announcer Ilana Dayan and political correspondent 'Oz Frankel — live]

[Text] [Dayan] Government circles have reiterated that there are no indications of escalating military tension between Israel and Syria on the Golan Heights and along the Lebanese border, and there are no assessments that a war is imminent. 'Oz Frankel, our political correspondent, good morning.

[Frankel] Good morning.

[Dayan] 'Oz, over the weekend Jerusalem tried to issue calming statements and it reports quiet along the border.

[Frankel] That is correct. It seems Jerusalem was somewhat frightened by the media effort, in which, it, too, seemed to play a role, aimed at exposing to the world the growing Syrian military strength and the link between Damascus and terrorism. Articles published in the U.S. press last week and the very ominous headlines flashed on top of them created a snowball effect of speculation, reaction, and counterreaction which made a negative contribution to the situation between Israel and Syria, a delicate situation in any case.

Jerusalem therefore concentrated its efforts over the weekend mainly on calming the mood, doing this both publicly and through diplomatic channels, its message being: Israel is not planning any military move against Syria, and an analysis of the situation also does not prove that the other party is planning a war or that a conflagration is imminent.

Israeli sources said over the weekend that although Syria's invovlement in the attempt to bomb the El Al plane in London is extremely grave, and even though its encroaching move southward in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' is cause for concern, the distance between this and an all-out war is still great. Incidentally, Jerusalem believes that the attempt to blow up the Israeli aircraft was a Syrian act of revenge after one of its civilian aircraft, which carried Syrian officials, was forced down by the Israeli Air Force.

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres may recommend to his fellow ministers at today's Cabinet session that the policy of exercising maximum restraint in verbal expressions be maintained, as before, so as not to lead to a verbal escalation between Jerusalem and Damascus.

Efforts To Decrease Tension Noted

TA110735 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 May 86 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] Israel has asked the U.S. to reassure Syria that it has no military intentions against Damascus.

The message is intended to contradict various international press reports, especially in the U.S., that Israel plans to launch a military operation against Syria coordinated with the U.S., following indications that Syrian intelligence initiated the attempted attack on an El Al plane in London's Heathrow Airport last month.

The cabinet is to be fully briefed by Prime Minister Peres on recent developments concerning Syria, and Peres will use the opportunity to try to reduce tensions between the two countries. A similar attempt has been carried out by Defence Minister Rabin in New York after his previous remarks were perceived by the press there as a warning to Syria.

Some cabinet ministers have criticized Rabin and Peres for remarks made last week which the ministers said amounted to sabre-rattling.

On Friday the prime minister moved smartly to reduce the seemingly escalating tension with Syria. Israel, he told the Tel Aviv Commercial Club, had no intention of attacking Syria and had "no indication" that an attack is being planned by Syria.

At the same time, Peres accused Syria of complicity in international terrorism, and warned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad that he would have "to pay the price" if he continued to sponsor terror.

Peres's speech was carefully balanced between a condemnation of Syria as a sponsor of terror, and an attempt to play down the tension. The tone of the speech was summed up by Peres's description of Al-Asad as "the most radical of the Arab leaders in the long-term but one of the most dependable regarding short-term agreements."

The prime minister appeared to blame the recent "verbal tension" between Israel and Syria on an unlikely partnership of PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the media. 'Arafat, he said, had spread rumours about an impending attack on Syria as a means of spreading confusion in the region. Those rumours, he intimated, had then been exaggerated by the media. "We have no plan to attack Syria — not today and not tomorrow — and no one will drag us into a war that we don't want," Peres said. "I wouldn't want us to find ourselves in a war due to media escalation."

Peres described Al-Asad as "more subtle" than Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and more expert at hiding his terrorist links. Al-Asad, he said, was sufficiently experienced to realize that he had been revealed as a sponsor of terrorism and would have to decide his position accordingly. The premier expressed strong support for the U.S. struggle against terror, and said that he detected "movement" in the attitude of the Europeans on the issue. He added that he had "no doubt" that the U.S. air strike against Libya would reduce Libyan-sponsored terror.

Authoritative diplomatic sources yesterday told *THE JERUSALEM POST* that Scotland Yard now had "real evidence" that the Syrian Ambassador in London, Lutfallah Haydar, was also personally involved in the affair. Haydar was not among those asked to leave London yesterday.

Still, U.S. officials were not pleased that Rabin, during his visit to Washington last week, went as public as he did in blaming Syria for the El Al incident. One American said: "We're afraid Israel may be painting itself into a corner." But as of yesterday U.S. officials said they accepted Israel's assurances that it was not anxious to open another full-scale war with Syria.

Schiff Comments on Brinkmanship

TA091935 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
9 May 86 p 13

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Damascus Is Marching Toward the Brink"]

[Text] What would have happened if, heaven forbid, the plot by the terrorist Hindawi to blow up the El Al plane on its way from London to Lod had succeeded and hundreds of people had been killed when it crashed? We may assume that what we now know about those who planned the operation would have been learned quite quickly by the Israeli intelligence services. The English, for example, have no doubts that it was Syrian intelligence officers who were behind the plan to blow up the plane and that the Syrian Embassy in London was directly involved in the affair.

The information available to the English has been drawn, among other things, from the interrogations of Hindawi and others and this was specifically stated by the English Foreign Office to the Syrian ambassador to England. Hindawi told his interrogators that as soon as he had handed over the explosive package to his girl friend, he was taken to the Syrian Embassy and brought to a meeting with the ambassador himself, who congratulated him on the operation. If Hindawi is not lying, the Syrian diplomat who was involved in the affair was not some minor clerk and bottle washer in the embassy. The Syrian ambassador himself was in on the secret of the plot. According to Hindawi, he had conducted protracted contacts with senior intelligence officers from Syria and they had been occupied in planning the operation for many months.

Israel is not looking for pretexts for a war with Syria. Despite the fact that the national unity government contains the same ministers who used the attempt by Abu Nidal's [Sabri al-Banna] personnel to assassinate Ambassador Argov in 1982 as a pretext for the war in Lebanon, this is not the approach at present, with Shim'on Peres as prime minister and Yitzhaq Rabin as defense minister. But if the El Al plane had been blown up in the air and fallen into the ocean depths with its hundreds of passengers, even the most moderate leader in Israel would have been unable to refrain from the most massive reaction.

This is certainly the case with an atmosphere of war against international terrorism prevalent in Washington and nobody in the White House prepared to lend auspices to Damascus if it turns out that it is involved in acts of terrorism. After the bombing in Libya, Israel would have behaved far more drastically concerning any massive act of terrorism against itself. The blowing up of an El Al plane could, therefore, have ended in a sweeping deterioration of the atmosphere between Israel and Syria, even to the point of a comprehensive war.

The disturbing question is whether Damascus now understands today's significance of an act of terrorism as grave as downing a civil aircraft with its passengers. If the Syrians really are involved in this affair, as many signs indicate, there are two main possibilities explaining this move.

One is that Damascus very well understands the significance of such a massive act of terrorism and is not deterred because it does not fear a warlike deterioration and is prepared to absorb an Israeli attack. It is even possible that it wants war and blowing up a plane with its hundreds of passengers would constitute the provocation, or the deception, for a great move. Another possibility is that the Damascus regime has in fact lost control over its various intelligence branches. The intelligence organizations in Syria are playing an important role in the internal struggle and tension at the Syrian top (including among the 'Alawites themselves). Various people are dealing with the intelligence issues and the "Israeli file." It is certainly possible that one of these branches initiated the plot to blow up the El Al plane of its own accord with the goal of accelerating various moves in Syria and in the area. I am putting this forward as an assumption because to date Al-Asad's control over what happens in his country has been quite good, except that over the past few months Syria has entered a certain downward spiral in domestic affairs and the fighting at home.

There are no clear answers in Damascus. Although Al-Asad told the German foreign minister that he would continue to encourage terrorism against Israel, along came the firm denial of Syrian involvement in the affair of Hindawi and the El Al plane. The Syrians are saying in various ways that they had no part in this affair and it should be taken into account that there are others who have an interest in causing a conflagration between Israel and Syria. They point to the Iraqis, for example, as those who are interested in causing such a provocation. They claim that even among the Palestinians there are people who are interested in a war between Syria and Israel. Damascus — so they explain — will continue to support actions against the Israeli presence in Lebanon, but is opposed in principle to any attack against civil air flight.

Various voices are coming out of Damascus. Sometimes the messages coming from there are basically contradictory. This, first of all, indicates that Damascus is working on various options and alternatives. On the one hand, the option of terrorism and preparations for war, and, on the other, the option of talking about political preparations. They receive Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Richard Murphy in Damascus with honor and talked with him about political arrangements in the area and the release of U.S. hostages from their Shi'ite and Iranian kidnappers in Lebanon. In the field matters look different: They send out car bombs with suicide drivers and help those terrorists who come to our territory; they have also positioned a radar system on Jabal al-Baruk, although it was understood that after the Israeli withdrawal no Syrian forces would penetrate into the regions from which the IDF withdrew. In other words, the Syrians have marched to the brink and taken steps that go beyond normal defense precautions. Steps that may already be called provocation.

After the U.S. military action against Libya and Washington's intransigent stand against terrorism, it seems that Damascus is being subjected to pressure. In anything regarding its involvement in matters of terrorism, Damascus is behaving like someone whose secret has been discovered after its junior partner, Al-Qadhdhafi's Libya, has been caught in the act and punished. Syria understands that in this matter it is not confronting Israel alone. The risks involved in a warlike action initiated by its neighbor, Israel, and the United States are much greater than those involved in a firm retaliatory action by Israel alone. It is this fear, in my opinion, that decided the timing for Al-Asad's visit to his pro-Western neighbor who maintains a link with Israel. These changes are taking place while the internal situation in Syria has become as grave as it can be: an increase in internal fighting between the various sects as well as among the 'Alawites; grave acts of terrorism in Syria that may be being helped by financial aid and equipment from outside (not Israel); increasing difficulties in controlling Lebanon; and a worsening economic situation. It is possible that people in Damascus understand that they will have to make decisions about their support for terrorism. If they continue with the massive aid to terrorism, sooner or later the cat will be out of the bag.

Papers Reject Military Solution

TA110800 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 11 May 86

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] *HA'ARETZ* says that the Syrians should pay attention to Shim'on Peres' declaration on Friday that Israel has no belligerent intentions vis-a-vis Syria, and note the Israeli public's impression, following Minister Bar-Lev's statements yesterday that to the best of his knowledge Syria has no intention of attacking us at the moment. We understand that the traumatic experience of the Yom Kippur war still lingers in our memory and agree that we must maintain maximum alertness, but we should beware of prophecies maintaining that war is inevitable.

We should also beware of the temptation to think that the problem of terrorism could be solved by limited military strikes, as the "Peace for Galilee" campaign has proved. The effects of the U.S. bombing of Tripoli and Banghazi have not yet been fully assessed, and even though the U.S. public is ready to support war against terrorism, no one can tell how that public will react should Israel be portrayed — even if only formally — as an aggressor.

However, this does not mean that the Syrian leader should consider himself immune and continue to encourage terrorism and erode Israel's status in southern Lebanon. The police affairs minister explained very clearly that Al-Asad must not delude himself into thinking that he is immune. Syria is just as responsible for carefully weighing things as is Israel.

THE JERUSALEM POST writes that while Israel has an obvious interest in unveiling Syria's role in promoting and implementing terrorist actions, it should have no interest in linking that to the threat of war. On the contrary, such linkage is a Syrian interest. It now seems that Israel's message about Syria's role in sponsoring international terror has finally got through.

That element of the Syrian challenge need not continue to dominate Israeli rhetoric. For that rhetoric, prompting Al-Asad to cry wolf, deflects attention from the larger and continuing danger.

'AL HAMISHMAR says that the struggle against terrorism cannot be solved by war, as the "Peace for Galilee" operation proved unequivocally. President Reagan's Libyan operation, too, merely resulted in strengthening Al-Qadhdhafi's status in Libya. We are embroiled in a real conflict with Syria, which has sufficient potential to deteriorate into war, and this must be prevented — but not by verbiage, which merely serves to confuse the public, as the paper puts it, rather by incessant attempts to reach a political arrangement, no matter how difficult the road to achieving it may be.

Upcoming Husayn, 'Arafat Visits to USSR Noted

TA091615 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 May 86 p 1

[Text] *AL-QUDS* has learned that the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, will pay a visit to the Soviet Union shortly, probably within the next month, in response to an invitation by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, and that the talks during this visit will concentrate on the Middle East situation and some armament aspects in the wake of the suspension of the U.S. arms deal to Jordan.

It is understood that the visit by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Moscow, about which a great deal has been said, will probably take place immediately following King Husayn's visit.

Soviet Official Says USSR Not Hostile to People

TA101655 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] A member of the Estonian Supreme Soviet [as heard] said today there has been no change for the worse in the Soviet Union's attitude toward Israel, and there is no truth in statements that the Soviet Union is hostile to the Israeli people. Arnold Meri, the Estonian Supreme Soviet member who is currently visiting Israel, said the Soviet Union is firmly against terrorism. He was speaking in a rally to commemorate 41 years since the victory over Nazi Germany. The rally was organized by the Israel-Soviet Union Friendship Society.

Weizman Claims Peres Promised Foreign Ministry Post

TA120622 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] The prime minister has promised Minister 'Ezer Weizman that he will serve as a minister in the Foreign Ministry, in a post similar to that of Minister Butrus Ghali in Egypt, after the rotation. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that this emerges from a letter that Minister Weizman sent to Mr Peres yesterday. The letter recapitulates what the prime minister told him at a meeting they heled a few days ago. In the letter Minister Weizman continues to demand that Avraham Tamir be the director general of the Foreign Ministry and Arye Shumer the deputy general manager. The Prime Minister's Office has refused to comment on the report.

Egypt To Assume Role in Contacts With Palestinians

TA120916 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 May 86 p 2

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Egypt will soon make an effort to assume a central role in contacts between Israel and the Palestinians if Jordan continues to refuse to cooperate with the PLO. This emerges from talks which a most senior Egyptian official held in the United States, details of which reached Jerusalem. Political sources in Jerusalem note that this has been hinted at during the contacts being held between Israel and Egypt on the "Gaza first" concept. During a talk between Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali and Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, the former reacted positively to the strengthening of economic ties between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, and between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, as a first step in this direction.

Jerusalem believes that President Mubarak went to meet King Husayn in 'Aqaba in order to be updated on the matter of the monarch's contacts with President al-Asad. The Egytpian president is concerned about reports referring to contacts on military cooperation between Jordan and Syria. However, it was said in Jerusalem yesterday that these reports seem to have no basis in reality.

ALGERIA

France's Foreign Minister Raimond Arrives for Talks

LD092305 Algiers Domestic Service in French
2200 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] The French foreign minister arrived late today in Algiers. Mr Jean-Bernard Raimond was met by Deputy [Foreign] Minister Mr Aberkane. Speaking about Franco-Algerian relations, Mr Raimond told the press: There are in both countries two respective communities which make an important contribution to the life of the host country. It is important that the existence of these communities should be organized with dignity and mutual respect.

Earlier the French minister had said that his visit — one of the first abroad — shows the high regard France has for Algeria and the interest it shows in the policy followed by Algerian leaders. He added that this visit should be seen in the context of strengthening his country's ties with the countries of the Maghreb. Jean-Bernard Raimond said in this respect that the talks he is going to have with the Algerian minister of foreign affairs will deal with events facing the Maghreb countries, be they events of recent weeks or events going back several years. His talks will also cover other current topics of international interest, in particular, the next special session of the United Nations on the economic situation in Africa.

The French minister of foreign affairs will be making a 2-day working visit to Algeria.

Received by President Bendjedid

LD101628 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid received this morning at the Presidency Jean-Bernard Raimond, French minister of external relations, who conveyed to the president of the Republic a message from French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

This meeting was attended by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the FLN Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs, and the ambassadors of the two countries.

Further on Talks Held

LD102050 Algiers APS in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Algiers 10 May (APS) — Algerian-French political talks commenced today under the chairmanship of Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the FLN Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs for the Algerian side, and Jean-Bernard Raimond, French minister of external relations for the French side.

This first meeting allowed a wide exchange of views on major international issues. In this context, it is noteworthy that they talked about the situation in the Arab Maghreb, tension in the Mediterranean region in the wake of the U.S. aggression against the Libyan people, and the Palestinian issue.

The French minister stressed that his government pays great attention to the continuation of the political dialogue with Algeria and to the existing multifaceted cooperation between the two countries.

The two ministers also talked about issues concerning the communities in each other's countries.

AFP Cites Raimond on Talks

NC101921 Paris AFP in English 1909 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Algiers, May 10 (AFP) — French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond said at the end of a 24-hour visit to Algeria that his contacts with Algerian officials had been carried out with "very great trust."

Mr Raimond said the visit was part of the new French conservative government's desire to give priority to the North African countries.

He has already visited neighbouring Algeria [as received] and met Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi in Paris.

The French minister passed on a message from Prime Minister Jacques Chirac during a one hour meeting with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. The contents of the message were not revealed.

He also held several meetings with Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi. Mr Raimond said he discussed current world problems and bilateral issues and invited Mr Ibrahimi to Paris.

The April 15 U.S. raid on Libya, which borders Algeria, as well as the Tokyo summit of industrial powers, the situation in North Africa and the Middle East were all discussed, he said.

Mr Raimond said France "would not interfere" in the Western Sahara conflict between Polisario guerrillas in the former Spanish colony and the Moroccan Government, which he said was a problem concerning North African countries.

Holds News Conference

LD102103 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1800 GMT 10 May 86

[Excerpts] At a press conference given in the early afternoon, Raimond stressed the importance attached by the present French Government to its relations with the Maghreb countries. Stressing the climate of great confidence which has been a feature of his visit to Algiers, and the quality of the reception he had been given, he noted that as far as certain bilateral problems are concerned — and I quote — We agreed on the need to cooperate in a very active way to solve them.

The French minister also pointed out that his government is concerned about the conditions in which the Algerian community in France lives. Asked about the possible reintroduction of visas for Maghreb citizens — a step announced by the French prime minister at the beginning of April in his general policy speech to the French National Assembly — Jean-Bernard Raimond stated that at the moment there are no moves to apply this.

He said that he and his Algerian counterpart had made a wide-ranging survey of certain questions of international events, particularly the situation in the Mediterranean; the results of the Tokyo summit, which he attended with President Mitterrand and Jacques Chirac; and the situation in the Maghreb and the Near East.

Finally, on the question of the Western Sahara, the French minister said that France's position on the question remains the same. We support the right of self-determination, he said, but do not wish to interfere in the question of the Western Sahara.

Jean-Bernard Raimond, who refused to answer a question about the delivery of French arms to Morocco, said that he had touched on this subject (?no more) during his visit to Rabat last April than he has in Algiers.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD111620 Algiers APS in English 1025 GMT 11 May 86

[Excerpt] Algiers, 11/05/86 (APS) — French foreign minister, Jean-Bernard Raimond left here yesterday following a two-day working visit in Algiers.

LIBYA

36 European Diplomats Expelled in Retaliation

LD121309 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1250 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Proceeding from the principle of reciprocation and in retaliation for the oppressive measures taken under U.S. pressure by European states against a number of members of Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Europe on the pretext of terrorism, the People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau has announced today the expulsion of 36 diplomats working in the Embassies of Italy, West Germany, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Belgium, and Denmark accredited to the Jamahiriyah.

Further on Expulsions

LD121504 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1413 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Tripoli, 12 May (JANA) — Proceeding from the principle of reciprocity and in retaliation for oppressive measures which European countries have implemented against a number of officials of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Europe under U.S. pressure on the pretext of terrorism, the People' Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison today announced the expulsion of 36 diplomats accredited to the Jamahiriyah and working at the Embassies of Italy, West Germany, France, Netherlands, Spain, Belgium, and Denmark.

Twenty-five employees at the Italian Embassy have been deported, and 6 of these were declared persona non grata for having carried out activites incompatible with their diplomatic activities. They have been given 10 days to leave the Jamahiriyah. The movement of the Italian Embassy employees also has been restricted to the Tripoli area, which they cannot leave without permission.

The FRG Embassy had four diplomats expelled because of activities incompatible with their duties. They also have been asked to leave the Jamahiriyah within 10 days. The movement of the West German staff has been restricted to the Tripoli area, which they cannot leave without prior permission.

A diplomat has been expelled from the French Embassy because of activities in controvention of his diplomatic duties. The movement of the French Embassy staff also has been restricted to the Tripoli area, which they are not allowed to leave without prior permission.

A diplomat at the Netherlands Embassy was deported for engaging in actions conflicting with the nature of his mission. Furthermore, the movement of the embassy staff is restricted to the Tripoli area, which they should not leave without securing prior permission.

The Spanish embassy had two diplomats persona non grata for actions inconsistent with their diplomatic activities and were given a week to leave the Jamahiriyah. The movement of the embassy staff is restricted to the Tripoli area which they cannot leave without permission.

Two diplomats at the Belgian Embassy were ordered to leave the Jamahiriyah for actions conflicting with the nature of their duties. They were given 10 days to leave the country. The movement of the embassy staff also is restricted to the Tripoli area, which they cannot leave without permission.

A diplomat at the Danish Embassy was deported for engaging in actions conflicting with the nature of his diplomatic tasks and the movement of the embassy staff is restricted to the Tripoli area from which they cannot leave without permission.

The deportation of these diplomats is in retaliation for the arbitrary measures adopted to those countries against members of our people's bureaus.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison wishes to affirm its friendly relations with the European peoples who came out in demonstrations of anger and denunciation against the treacherous U.S. aggression on the Jamahiriyah's people and in strong support of the Libyan Arab people in their stand against that aggression out the Libyan Arab people's belief that lasting relations are the relations among peoples and not among governments.

In this regard, the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison affirms that terrorism has been used as a pretext for invasion and aggression against the people because of their rejection of imperialist hegemony, a matter which brings the imperialist mentality of the 19th Century to mind when the imperialist countries used to resort to feeble arguments and excuses such as the bay of Algeria hitting the French ambassador with a fan and the reparation of the Alexandria fortress as pretexts for France's occupation of Algeria and Britain's occupation of Egypt, and the resort to similar pretexts for launching acts of aggression and occupation against the peoples of Africa and Asia.

Mediterranean Parties Meeting Held in Tripoli

Syrian Envoy Addresses Meeting

JN100649 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0415 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Tripoli — The Permanent Secretariat of the Progressive Socialists Organization of the Medierranean held an emergency meeting last night to discuss the U.S. imperialist aggression against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Munir Barikhan, chief of the Syrian Arab Relations Bureau [embassy] in Tripoli and head of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation to the meeting, made a speech in which he spoke about U.S. imperialist and Zionist plans to dominate the Arab region and the world and to resort to military action after the failure to carry out these plans by political means.

Barikhan said: Syria, the only confrontation state before the Zionist enemy, is backed by Arab national forces and progressive regimes in Libya, Algeria, and the PDRY, as well as by the Palestinian revolution forces and the heroic Lebanese national resistance. Syria, under President Hafiz al-Asad, has stood and will continue to stand by Libya with all its resources against any new U.S. aggression.

Barikhan affirmed that it is essential to differentiate between official international terrorism, which is pursued by the United States against peoples, and the struggle which is waged by peoples and Arab and world liberation movements for the sake of gaining freedom and usurped rights. Barikhan exposed the U.S. and Israeli threats against Syria, saying they are a prelude for blatant aggression against the Syrian Arab people on the pretext that Syria supports terrorism, which were the same threats which preceded U.S. aggression against Libya.

Barikhan concluded his speech by thanking on behalf of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party and its Secretary General President Hafiz al-Asad the progressive and socialist parties in the Mediterranean, as well as the socialist bloc countries headed by the friendly USSR, for backing the Palestine question and the Arab struggle against the savage imperialist onslaught on the Arab region and the Mediterranean littoral states.

Speeches were also made on behalf of other Arab and foreign progressive, socialist parties and delegations attending the meeting. Speakers affirmed their solidarity with the progressive and democratic forces confronting hostile U.S. plans against the peoples of the Mediterranean basin. They called for making the Mediterranean an area of peace and security. They also condemned the U.S. aggression and the U.S. and Israeli threats against Syria, calling them a new link in the chain of U.S.-Zionist attacks against Arab liberation forces.

Meeting Ends; Statement Issued

LD101406 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] The Permanent Secretariat of the Progressive Socialist Organization of the Mediterranean concluded the emergency meeting held for discussing the failed U.S.-NATO barbarous aggression against the people of the Great Jamahiriyah.

The participants in the emergency meeting issued a final statement in which they strongly condemned the failed U.S.-NATO barbarous aggression against the Libyan Arab people. They highly appreciated the brave stand of the Libyan Arab people. The statement condemned U.S. practices against small nations. In their statement the participants in the emergency meeting of the organization called for working toward making the Mediterranean region free from all foreign fleets and military bases in order to achieve peace and security in the region and to remove the dangers that threaten cooperation among its peoples. The statement condemned the Egyptian regime for allowing U.S. nuclear aircraft carriers to pass through the Suez Canal into the Mediterranean.

Further on Statement

NC110640 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
0500 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] In a statement issued yesterday at the conclusion of its emergency meeting in Tripoli, the Permanent Secretariat of the Progressive Socialist Organization of the Mediterranean emphasized that it had been agreed to work within a unified front for the struggle against imperialism and Zionism and in the service of world peace and security.

The secretariat refuted U.S. lies and claims propagated by imperialist circles against the Great Jamahiriyah. It stressed that events and evidence have clearly shown that it is Washington that is practicing all types of terrorism against peoples with the aim of subjugating them.

The statement added: When the Great Jamahiriyah faced the U.S.-Atlantic aggression, with its strategic planes, warships, and aircraft carriers, it was defending all the peoples of the Mediterranean basin against the criminal imperialist scheme. The secretariat called the attention of world opinion to the dangers posed to the Mediterranean region by the U.S. Administration's conduct. It called on the European countries not to run panting behind this hostile policy against the Great Jamahiriyah, or any other country in the region, but to serve the economic, cultural, and other interests which they have in common with the Arab homeland and the peoples of the region.

The statement called on all progressive and peace-loving forces and organizations everywhere to organize programs and activities to denounce the U.S.-Atlantic aggression against the Libyan Arab people. Those who are behind it should be exposed, and public attention should be drawn to the risk entailed in the imperialist escalation of tension in the region. The statement also condemned the resolutions of the failed Tokyo summit, denouncing the way in which the child murderer Reagan imposed those resolutions on the countries participating in the summit. It described this imposition as an exposed and condemned act of blackmail.

Arab Solidarity Meeting Held, Statement Issued

LD111528 Tripoli JANA in English 1751 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Tripoli, Shaban 29, May 9, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The International Secretariat for Solidarity with the Arab People (ISSAP) and its central issue — the Palestinian cause — concluded its emergency meeting, which was held in solidarity with the Libyan Arab people, this morning in Tripoli and issued the following statement:

The recent barbarous U.S. aggression on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah was met with waves of large-scale official and popular protest all over the world. All peace-loving democratic forces, social and cultural world organizations, the non-alignment states, Islamic states and the socialist system countries stood against the U.S. Administration's use of military force which constitute a qualitative shift in the policy of official state terrorism endorsed by America against nations of the world.

The whole world stood in solidarity with Great Jamahiriyah condemning the U.S. aggression which was aimed at the life of leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and civilian Libyans. Despite all that, Washington continues still to escalate its policy of terrorism against Jamahiriyah and its people. It is regretable that the ring of American official terrorism has started to expand by the joining of some West European government to it. This was expressed during the Tokyo summit of the industrial states held recently and reflected a respond from these governments to the intensive American pressures on them to take hostile political and economic stances against Jamahiriyah.

After the Tokyo summit, with great concern we notice that the ring of U.S. official terrorism started to threaten other countries, in particular Syria. The talk began about a new Israeli military aggression, with clear U.S.-instigation, against Syria, the Palestinian people and the national Lebanese forces, for the purpose of imposing an American settlement to the Palestinian issue and the tearing apart of Lebanon. The U.S. aggression in Jamahiriyah was aimed at weakening its nationalistic role in this vital region of the Arab homeland. No doubt this dangerous policy pursued by the U.S. Administration poses a grave danger to the developing nations' independence. It also poses a threat to peace in the Mediterranean, the Middle East and the whole world — all this forms an undisguised defiance to the will of the international community which announced 1986 a year of world peace.

ISSAP, which is meeting in Tripoli, in solidarity with the people of Jamahiriyah and its revolutionary leadership call on all the democratic and progressive forces of the world to confront the policy of official terrorism practiced by the Reagan administration against Jamahiriyah, also to confront the propaganda campaign whch accuses Jamahiriyah with terrorism. This thing which aims at accusing all the liberation movements in the world with terrorism. What we see in Nicaragua, Palestine, Angola and South Africa is a proof of that.

ISSAP calls on all the democratic forces of the world to exert more efforts to confront the crazy policies of the (?Reagan) administration to preserve world peace in this respect, it stresses on the necessity to turn the Mediterranean Sea into a region of peace by withdrawing the U.S. and Soviet fleets from it. It strongly backs the Soviet proposals in this respect.

ISSAP warmly greets the steadfastness of the Libyan Arab people and its brave standing in confronting the American aggression. It raises greetings to the revolutionary leadership impersoned by the Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. It declares that all its forces and organizations place all their potentials in standing by the Great Jamahiriyah and the forces of Arab liberation in their battle against aggression.

UN Delegate Tells De Cuellar of U.S. 'Threats'

LD111955 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] The Jamahiriyah's representative to the United Nations conferred with the UN secretary general last Friday during which they discussed a number of international issues, including the U.S. threats to use military force again, and also the U.S. Zionist threats against fraternal Syria.

The brother representative of the Jamahiriyah revealed to the UN secretary general the dimensions of the rabid terrorist campaigns by the U.S. Government against the Jamahiriyah, and their reflection in the practice of all media, military, economic, and psychological pressures and on conveying a false image of the Libyan Arab people to the U.S. and international public opinion. In this context he pointed out the declared scheme and the [word indistinct] measures, and the other undeclared measures, primarily directed against the Libyan Arab people.

UN Secretary General Javier De Cuellar, in an address, highly appreciated the Jamahiriyah's permanent UN representative's expression of deep concern over the critical situation in the Mediterranean which resulted from the barbarous U.S.-NATO aggression against the people of the Great Jamahiriyah.

Official on Oil Prices, Withdrawal of U.S. Oil Firms

LD111126 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] The Libyan Secretary of Planning Fawzi al-Shakshuki, who visited Tehran to deliver Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's message to President Khamene'i, left Tehran this morning. He was seen off by the Iranian oil minister, Aqazadeh.

Before his departure he spoke to a correspondent of the Voice and Vision of Iran and reiterated his defense of the Iranian, Algerian, and Libyan proposal calling for restoring official OPEC prices and the 14 million barrel ceiling. Commenting on the withdrawal of U.S. oil companies from Libya, the Libyan petroleum secretary said: Their departure shall have no effect whatsoever in our operations. However, should they decide to continue their operation, then it goes without saying that we will honor our agreements with them.

Commenting on the same issue, Iranian Oil Minister Aqazadeh told our reporter: We have a number of experts in Libya, who assist that country with its oil exploitation. If U.S. companies decide to leave Libya, then our experts will increase their assistance to Libya in its efforts to explore and produce oil.

Referring to the forthcoming OPEC session, Aqazadeh said: We do remain firm in our stance to restore official oil prices. If the previous session had adopted the decision to establish a 14 million barrel ceiling for OPEC production, then we would now be witnessing the restoration of $28 per barrel.

Envoy Reaffirms 'Unlimited' USSR Support

LD091134 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
1931 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Dr Oleg Peresypkin, USSR ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah, emphasized that the Soviet Union highly values the efforts of the brother leader of the revolution, and his initiative to make the Mediterranean a sea of peace and security in the interests of all the peoples of the region, away from the U.S.-NATO imperialist and military interferences.

Dr Peresypkin informed Jamahiriyah television that the Soviet Union firmly condemns the blatant policy of provocation that is held by the U.S. Administration toward the Libyan Arab people. The Soviet Union, which highly values the steadfastness of the Great Jamahiriyah and its firm stand in the face of imperialism, reaffirms its unlimited support to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and its revolutionary leadership.

The ambassador of the Soviet Union strongly condemned the results of the recent Tokyo summit of the capitalist states. He added that this conference, which has deviated from its expected aims, is of the sort that is devoted to attacking states like Libya and the Soviet Union. He also said that the Soviet Union strongly rejects the allegations that are spread by the U.S. Administration against the Libyan Arab people and against its leadership, as well as the false and wicked accusations that the U.S.-NATO circles try to level against Libya, which has undertaken a battle against imperialism to win sovereignty, stability, and peace.

Tripoli Cites Support of Iran's Khamene‘i

LD110057 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland
in Arabic 2315 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] The Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam ‘Ali Khamene‘i reaffirmed Iran's backing and unlimited support for the Great Jamahiriyah in confronting the imperialist attack led by the United States and NATO.

The Iranian president voiced Iran's appreciation and admiration for the Libyan Arab people and its revolutionary leadership regarding liberation issues everywhere when he received the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for planning yesterday. He said that U.S. imperialism is now launching a number of plots against progressive countries in a desperate attempt to drown their voices, explaining that oil prices were part of these plots.

Khamene‘i called for the need to intensify joint cooperation among OPEC members, especially progressive countries, to foil the U.S.-Western scheme aimed at undermining the unity of OPEC and disperse its efforts to stabilize the world oil market.

Weinberger Said To Admit Failure of U.S. Aggression

LD101554 Tripoli JANA in English 1417 GMT 10 MAY 86

[Text] Washington, Ramadan 2, May 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The American war minister, Caspar Weinberger, acknowledged, last night in a press conference the failure of American Atlantic aggression against Great Jamahiriyah.

He said that the Pentagon did not know the reason of the failure of the F111 bombers to drop their bombs on target.

He said the bombs missed their target and that there is lack of efficiency and skill.

Caspar Weinberger acknowledged the collapse of morale amongst his armed forces in the aftermath of the failing raid.

He added: We are in the process of testing the Western morale as we are facing more then mere threats.

JANA Arab Affairs Editor's Commentary

LD120927 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0710 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Tripoli 12 May (JANA) — The U.S. secretary for war [as received] Weinberger has stated that America will test the morale of the West in implementing its terroristic plan under the pretext of combatting the so-called terrorism. Speaking before the Assembly of North California [as received] and the Harvard Club in San Francisco, he said: I believe that we are participating in a long fight against extremely hostile and antidemocratic forces and that we are facing more than mere threats which are liable to disappear quickly.

JANA Arab affairs editor commented on that by saying that the statements made by the U.S. official are direct instigations for the West to follow United States in implementing its terroristic plans against the Arab nation and the Islamic world, and that the U.S. official was quite frank in talking about what we have repeatedly stressed in the past — that United States of America has been for some time preparing for a tenth crusade that aims at the destruction of Arabs and Muslims and at putting an end to the entity of the Arabs, the East and their civilization. Thus, it is daily becoming apparent to all that United States of America in the era of Reagan, the rabid dog of the Mosad, is leading a 10th crusade against the Arab nation and the Islamic world — entity, civilization, and presence. The weak justifications that have been cited and are being cited by the U.S. Administration, and the involvement of the name of the Great Jamahiriyah in a number of acts of violence carried out by members of organizations that reject U.S. imperialist policies are all part of a blind crusading hatred and evil tendency against the Arab nation and the Islamic world which has become a victim of the madness of the rabid dog in the American black house, Reagan.

JANA Arab affairs editor then asked: If the West, instigated by the hateful U.S. Administration, is to wage a long-term war — as Weinberger has described it — against the Arab nation, what are the East and the Arabs waiting for before replying with force and violence to foil and destroy the hateful crusade and those who have planned it in defense of their presence, civilization, and Islamic religion?

YAR Foreign Minister Departs Libya 9 May

LD091526 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1510 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Tripoli, 9 May (JANA) — Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani. member of the Permanent Committee of the General People's Congress, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister of the Yemen Arab Republic, left Tripoli today after a visit to the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

JANA Views Thatcher's 'Bitter Defeat' in Elections

LD111928 Tripoli JANA in English 1800 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Tripoli, Ramadan 3, May 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Following the bitter defeat suffered by child murderer, ally of the Israeli mad dog and the agent of Mosad, in the two by-elections and the council elections throughout Britain the international affairs editor in JANA commented saying that as observers predicted, the child murderer Thatcher reaped the first fruit of the American Atlantic barbaric aggression against Great Jamahiriyah. Also her old aged party suffered a brain damage.

The international affairs editor remarked that this hot slap came right after the failing barbaric aggression and as a logical result of strong public reactions from various sections of the British society whose members in their hundreds and thousands expressed in letters to the leader of the revolution their stern condemnation of this despicable crime committed by the child murderer against innocent citizens in Great Jamahiriyah in addition to the political wave of protests witnessed by political fora in Britain where child murderer Thatcher was beleaguered in a tight corner pouring scores of firm accusations against her and ridiculing her swindler foreign secretary and cursing their Zionist grand father Judas Iscariot.

The editor of the international affairs said that the child murderer who is a staunchest admirer more than her predecessors and counterparts of mad dog Reagan through their catastrophic political marriage embroiled Britain further in needless political problems and scandals.

Hence London turned into a nest of spies and terrorism more than ever and the planning of coup d'etats as well as cooking plots in the Third World countries. Moreover the island turned into a yard of nuclear missiles and a base for the American bombers to launch aggression against sovereign states and killing innocents and the American Atlantic barbaric aggression against Great Jamahiriyah is a case in point. The editor of international affairs of JANA concluded that child murderer Thatcher who turned against her party and ruined its political future inflicting on it crises and early senile, has only one course left to her — a hanging rope or the fall in an acute hysteria which may end her up in a vast psychiatric clinic in a London suburb. It is the endless dilemma.

UAE Paper's Story on Committee Changes Rejected

LD111753 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Tripoli, 11 May (JANA) — JANA refutes the claims made by the correspondent of the Abu Dhabi *AL-ITTIHAD* in Morocco, published in a recent issue of the newspaper, and reported in the form of fabricated and completely false news and stories.

Before replying to these claims and falsifications, we would like to point out the text of what the Abu Dhabi *AL-ITTIHAD* published, as cited by the West German news agency. It said that changes will occur in the People's Revolutionary Committees, which work, according to the newspaper's claims, according to the instructions of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The newspaper added that the role of the committees became irrelevant after the U.S. raid on Libya last April. As part of its lies and conspiracies, the newspaper said that it is expected that the five-member Revolutionary Command Council will be expanded by including other military officers in order, according to the newspaper, to play a more effective role in formulating the domestic and external policies of the country. The newspaper also claimed that it is expected that the Basic People's Congress will soon meet to ratify what the newspaper called the decided reforms. It also claimed that after the public criticism of the Libyan minister of information because of the way he treated the crisis between Libya and the United States, a purge of the media seems certain and that changes will take place in the information organs.

It seems that the above-mentioned correspondent knows absolutely nothing about the people's authority in Libya and is ignorant even of the linguistic terms of the dictionary of the people's and Jamahirii authority. For instance, in his news item he mixed up the Basic People's Congresses, the masters of authority, decision, and sovereignty, the People's Committees, the executive tools of the people's authority, and the Revolutionary Committees, the safety valve of the people's authority and the inciters to the people's authority. The correspondent also proved his ignorance of what is happening in Libya regarding the establishment of the armed people in order to put an end to the traditional military institution. Here we remind the correspondent and those who read the falsifications, which were published in the Abu Dhabi *AL-ITTIHAD*, that in Libya there are 3 million Libyan men and women who are armed and trained on the most advanced weapons, all of them are Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, all of them are free unionist officers, and all the Libyan men and women are the masters of authority and decision in the Basic People's Congresses and there is no one to decide things on their behalf.

Last but not least, we regret the triviality of this correspondent who fabricated false stories and using a sick imagination, incited by his evil tendency, he violated journalistic honesty and accuracy. This truth could have been explained by any schoolboy to this intruder on journalism who is removed from the original Arab tradition which he has seen in the Jamahiriyah.

We no longer need to stress the victory of the Jamahiriyah, the state of the masses, over the American-NATO aggressors on 15 April as this has been officially announced. While we declare our victory, the U.S. imperialists are every day admitting their failure and defeat in their aggression against the Jamahiriyah. The masses have shot down the aircraft of the aggressors and defeated their fleets; the Libyan Arab waters became drowning waters for the enemy and the skies became burning skies for the enemy.

We would like to remind the correspondent of what he called a media purge. In the Jamahiriyah it is self-evident that we have ended the era of ministers, ministries, presidents and kings, and that the people have taken their place according to the declaration of the people's authority. The Jamahiriyah does not have a minister for information or for anything else, but it has a secretary for the General People's Committee for Information and Culture who was selected by the Basic People's Congresses.

Here we stress that according to the Arab and international journalist and diplomats, the media in the Jamahiriyah have gone a long way in fulfilling their mission. We also stress that the Jamahiri media are continuing their confrontation and are able to confront the biased campaigns in which the Abu Dhabi *AL-ITTIHAD* was involved by its Morocco correspondent.

We regret that the Abu Dhabi *AL-ITTIHAD*, from which we are used to hearing constructive words and truthful Arab news, has become the victim of a liar who tries, through his articles, to divert this newspaper from its normal course. It seems that he is one of those correspondents who uses journalism as a cover-up for their work for the CIA.

MOROCCO

King Receives Chadian Official, President's Message

LD101928 Rabat MAP in English 1204 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Rabat, May 10 (MAP) - King Hassan II of Morocco received here Friday the Chadian secretary of state to foreign affairs and cooperation, Korom Ahmed, who was accompanied by Chadian ambassador to Paris.

During the audience, Ahmed Korom handed the sovereign a message from Chadian President Hissein Habre.

The audience took place in the presence of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Abdellatif Filali, Ahmed Reda Guedira, adviser to the sovereign, and Youssef Ben Abbes, Moroccan ambassador to Paris.

Papers Cited on Polisario Talks, Arab Issues

LD112108 Rabat MAP in English 1236 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Rabat, May 9 (MAP) — The so-called separate talks being held in New York between Morocco and the Algerian-backed guerillas "the Polisario", the rumours of an eventual U.S.-Israeli aggression against Syria the American Senate's objection to the sale of U.S. missiles to Saudi Arabia, and terrorism make the headlines of today's newspapers in Morocco.

The widely-circulated daily newspaper (in French) of the Istiqlal Party (nationalist, opposition) *L'OPINION*, in its editorial "The Path of Reason" says, regarding the "separate talks" under the supervision of United Nations's secretary general, that "Morocco has made all concessions imaginable and has put forth all its powers to settle this bilateral dispute in the perspective of the construction of the grand Arab Maghreb for which our martyrs sacrificed themselves and to which the present [words indistinct] aspire". The governing people in Algiers, the daily says, have had during eleven years the occasion to realize that Morocco, king, people and government cannot accept any kind of bargain or concession about the Sahara which has been and will remain Moroccan. "It would be better for them to favor a peace process and definitely close this dossier", the editorialist concludes.

AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI, mouthpiece of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (Socialist), editorializing "The Dilatory Manoeuver", says that "the conditions set forth by the Polisario mercenaries and those who back them have no practical meaning but to hinder the good-will mission of the UN secretary general, avert the organization of a referendum, and oppose any attempt to settle the Sahara problem". "Morocco, the daily says will never accept blackmail under any circumstances.

Under the heading of "The Signs of Escalation", the same daily comments on the rumours of a planned American-Israeli aggression against Syria. For *AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI*, the threat is directed not only against an Arab country but also against the whole Arab world, "unless the surprise happens and the Arab leaders join efforts and unite for the defense of their dignity and their independence".

ALMAGHRIB, daily newspaper (in French) of the National Rally of Independents (Liberal) which prints in enormous characters "First-Fruits of a New Syrian-Israeli Confrontation" wonders if Syria is the only Arab country in the Middle East being the target of the American-Israeli crusade. "Pressures are also accentuating on other countries such as Lebanon — still under the menace of a new Zionist invasion — as well as Jordan and Saudi Arabia".

In its column "Hot Spots", *L'OPINION* expounds the reasons that led the American Senate to turn down President Reagan's request to supply Saudi Arabia with U.S. missiles. For the daily, the behaviour of the House of Representatives and the Senate speaks volumes for the manner the American political power perceives the Arab world and the degree of its support to Israel. "To tell that the Jewish lobby exercises a great influence on the White House is a pure fiction, as American policy-makers use this pretext to hide their intentions", the daily says adding that "the vote of the House of Representatives and the Senate prove that American officials make no difference between moderate and extremist Arab countries. For the U.S.A., Arabs constitute a danger, and America's interest lies in its unconditional support to Israel while maintaining the Arab world in a situation of economic and political dependence", the columnist continues.

In its essay on terrorism, *ALMAGHRIB* deems that the current international economic order, the Zionist terror in the Middle East, the racial policy in South Africa, to dictatorship in some countries, racism and xenophobia from which immigrant workers suffer, nuclear accidents such as that of Chernobyl in Russia, and the atomic bomb in Hiroshima must also be considered as terrorism acts.

SUDAN

Al-Mahdi Says Cabinet To Be Announced 12 May

JN121036 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Khartoum, May 12, (SUNA) — Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said government formation would be announced today.

Al-Mahdi told reporters that his Al-Ummah Party has prepared its nominees for the Cabinet adding that other parties taking part in the government particularly the southerners have not come out yet with their nominees. He said an agreement was reached Saturday providing for giving the south four ministers in accordance to demographic proportions. Al-Mahdi said large numbers of southerners do not have parliamentary representation and we have to compromise between those inside the parliament and those outside it.

Al-Mahdi said the southern member in Supreme Council, Dr Pacifico Lolik, will remain in his seat as a representative of the Sudan African Peoples Congress (SAPCO). Al-Mahdi said the Peoples Progressive Party (PPP) would take part in the upcoming government.

Confers With Southern Political Leaders

JN101843 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Khartoum, 10 May (SUNA) — Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi held a meeting with the leaders and representatives of the parties and political organizations of southern Sudan here today. They exchanged views on the current political situation, the efforts to form the government, and the best means of ensuring the southern forces' effective participation in the constitutional bodies. During the meeting, the prime minister asserted that the national interest requires concerted efforts and unified steps at this stage to build the constitutional bodies and go forward to face the increasing challenges facing the country.

The prime minister noted that the dialogue with our brothers in the south is continuing with the aim of defining a suitable formula that would encompass all their trends and political concepts. He said that the major issues concerning the national political balance will be comprehensively dealt with in the constitutional conference which will be held shortly and which enjoys the government's full interest and concern.

On the differences of views that emerged recently on the distribution of constitutional posts, the prime minister called on the audience to reach agreement on the basic points around which acceptable, common formulas can be crystallized which would reflect the concepts and trends of all the southern parties with regard to outstanding issues. He called on them to find a reasonable formula within this framework.

This was followed by a rigorous discussion in which a large number of leaders and representatives of the southern political organizations took part. They expressed their appreciation for the prime minister's initiatives and his sincere efforts to promote national reconciliation and entrench national unity. The discussion dealt with the objective bases for defining the size of the southern representation in the constitutional institutions, the September 1983 laws and how to deal with them during the next stage, the need to protect the African culture and heritage in Sudan, the system of government and the bases of administrative division of the south, as well as other issues.

The following results were achieved:

1. The size of the southern representation in the government should be compatible with demographic size in accordance with the latest census.

2. All the parties and political forces that participated in the meeting have agreed to support the government in light of its declared policy on the current issues, particularly with regard to ensuring a just distribution of wealth and natural resources and fighting the September [Islamic] laws.

3. Consultations between the two parties forming the government and the southern political forces should continue in light of the positive results of the meeting with the aim of reaching a final formula on the southern parties' participation in the government.

4. The ministerial distribution of the southern representatives must be revised in light of the results of the complementary elections.

The meeting was attended by Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, deputy secretary general of the Al-Ummah Party; Ahmad Sa'd 'Umar, member of the party's Political Bureau; and Al-Ummah Party officials 'Umar Nur al-Da'im, Ibrahim al-Amin, Bashir 'Umar, and Muhammad 'Abbas Faqir.

Ethiopia's Mengistu Congratulates Al-Mahdi

JN101031 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Khartoum, May 10 (SUNA) Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam [congratulated] Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi on his election to head the new government of the Sudan.

I would like to assure you of our readiness not only to cooperate with you in promotion of our bilateral relations but to collaborate with you in furthering the aims and purposes of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the FRENCH NEWS AGENCY AFP monitored here said quoting the Ethiopian leader as saying.

Ethiopia and Sudan had been at bad terms for a long time over the former's harbouring of the rebels of Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army SPLA who are fighting the Sudanese Government.

National Party To Rejoin Constituent Assembly

EA112041 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] The Sudanese National Party has explained that it will resume attendance of the sessions of the Constituent Assembly and that the withdrawal made by the party and some southern parties was restricted only to Tuesday's [6 May] session due to the Al-Ummah and Democratic Unionist Parties noncommitment to the charters and agreements arrived at by the political forces, including the National Islamic Front [NIF]. Mr Musa 'Abdallah Mursal, member of the Political Bureau of the National Party, said that if an agreement were reached on the national nature of the government, then they would not object to consulting with the two big parties about participation in it. He added that contacts were in the process of being held between the National Party and some other parties and the results of these would come to light in the coming days. He confirmed that there was agreement between his party and the NIF on some questions arising out of the Front's stand with the parties on national questions, pointing out that the Front had expressed its readiness to countenance the abolition of the September [1983 Shari'ah] laws [words indistinct].

Rhino, Shark Battalions Kill Government Troops

EA111537 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 9 May 86

[Excerpts] Units of SPLA's Rhino and Shark Battalions under the overall command of Major Bona Abang Dhol carried out another successful shelling of the enemy garrision at (Yeiri) on 3d May 1986. An unspecified number of government soldiers were reported killed and scores of them wounded.

This is the second joint operation conducted by units of Shark and Rhino Battalions following the ambush they conducted on the 29th April 1986 in which over 27 government soldiers were killed between (Yeiri) and Mundri.

TUNISIA

Mzali Meets With Eritrean Liberation Front Official

LD112017 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali this afternoon had talks with Abdallah Idris Mohamed, first deputy chairman of the Eritrean Liberation Front Executive Committee at the government palace in Qasabah this afternoon. The Eritrean Liberation Front official said that he held very positive talks with Prime Minister Mzali and the talks were dominated by complete understanding and dealt with developments in the Eritrean arena. He added that there also was an exchange of views on a number of issues of mutual interest.

He said that he conveyed to the prime minister the greetings of the sons of the Eritrean people to the president, the great fighter, Habib Bourguiba and to the Tunisian people as a token of their gratitude for Tunisia's support for the Eritrean people's struggle in their fight against the colonialists.

He pointed out the esteem and appreciation in which Tunisia is held by Eritreans and the special regard they hold for Tunisia in their hearts.

Foreign Minister Essebsi Confers With PLO's Qaddumi

JN111804 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1717 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Head of the PLO Political Department Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] met with Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi in Tunis yesterday. The talks dealt with the current Arab situation, developments in the Palestinian arena, preparations for the Arab summit, and means to entrench Arab solidarity and confront the challenges to the Arab nation.

Receives Chadian Emissary

LD101427 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi this morning received Korom Ahmed, Chadian secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation and Chadian emissary to President Habib Bourguiba.

WESTERN SAHARA

APS: President Sends Letter to France's Mitterrand

LD102344 Algiers APS in Arabic 0926 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Liberated Territories 10 May (APS) — Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz, Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] president and the secretary general of the Polisario Front, sent a message to French President Francois Mitterand in which he expressed his hope that France, which sticks to the principle of freedom and independence because it also suffered from colonialism, will assist the Saharan people in recovering its just rights to independence and freedom.

This came in a communique from the Saharan Ministry of Information which was published yesterday Friday [9 May]. The communique stated that the message was sent on the occasion of France's victory over Nazism on 8 May 1945. The message pointed out that France's victory over Nazism is a victory for all mankind. The sacrifices and suffering experienced by the French people are still fresh in their minds as is the stubborn resistance they showed against barbarous Nazism.

Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz added in his message that the Saharan people who condemn the horrors of wars and massacres join all those who humbly celebrate this glorious day. The communique pointed out that a similar message has been sent to the French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

ETHIOPIA

Meeting With Somalia Concludes, Communique Issued

EA092249 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
1700 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] The first meeting of the ad hoc committee appointed by the heads of state of Revolutionary Ethiopia and Somalia ended today. The aim of the meeting was to resolve the long-standing conflict between the two countries. The committee decided to hold its next meeting in Mogadishu.

In a joint communique issued at the end of the meeting, the two countries said that they had agreed to present reports on the matters discussed at the meeting so that the heads of state can issue directives. In speeches made at the end of the meeting, the foreign ministers of the two countries said that the meeting, the first of its kind, could be described as fruitful. They noted that the next meeting in Mogadishu would be held in the same spirit. It is expected to achieve good results.

The joint communique stated that the ad hoc committee had resolved to include in the agenda the discussion points raised by the two sides, to hold talks, and to continue its work to enable it to reach agreement by holding extensive discussions at its next meeting. Speaking at the end of the meeting, the foreign ministers of the two countries said that since the Addis Ababa meeting of the ad hoc committee was the first to be held, its discussions can be said to have been fruitful.

In his speech, Comrade Goshu Wolde pointed out that the meeting had discussed problems common to the two sides and that a joint communique had been issued. He said that the Ethiopian side views this development as a first step in the right direction.

Comrade Goshu expressed confidence that the next meeting in Mogadishu would develop the efforts already begun, and he added that revolutionary Ethiopia will continue her efforts to bring about peace in the region based on a spirit of understanding between the two peoples and governments.

Jama Barre expressed his gratitude to Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, WPE Central Committee secretary general, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces, and to the people, party, and government of revolutionary Ethiopia for the welcome and hospitality accorded his country's delegation during its stay in Addis Ababa. He commended the preparations carried out by revolutionary Ethiopia in organizing the meeting. He said that this occasion, in particular the exchange of ideas held between the leaders of the two countries during their recent meeting in Jibuti, which led to this meeting, was historic.

Jama Barre expressed his belief that the next joint meeting would further encourage efforts for peace and create conditions for hastening its progress. In conclusion he said that the ad hoc committee has been given the great responsibility of bringing about peace by the people and governments of the two countries.

Meanwhile, the delegation headed by Dr Abdurahman Jama Barre left for home today. The delegation was seen off from Bole International Airport by the WPE Central Committee member and foreign minister, Comrade Goshu Wolde.

Mengistu Congratulates Sudan's Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi

EA111457 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
1700 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam today sent a message to Mr Al-Sadiq al-mahdi expressing his congratulations on his election as prime minister of Sudan. In a message the comrade secretary general sent on behalf of the people and government of Ethiopia and on his own behalf he said that the election of the prime minister to this great office would further strengthen the historic relationship between the peoples of the two sister countries.

Our comrade revolutionary leader said that revolutionary Ethiopia is not a country which will cooperate with Sudan by just strengthening her relations with Sudan and he pointed out that her firm stand honors the objectives of the OAU. [as heard] He wished the prime minister continued health so that he can carry out his responsibilities competently for the progress and prosperity of the Sudanese people.

SOMALIA

Mogadishu Reports Somali-Ethiopian Joint Communique

EA092214 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali
1700 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Somali Foreign Minister Challe Dr Abdurahman Jama Barre and his delegation returned to Mogadishu this evening after attending the first meeting of the Somali-Ethiopian ad hoc committee which was held in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia.

Dr Abdurahman Jama Barre told SONNA reporters at Mogadishu International Airport that the ad hoc committee released a joint communique today on its meeting in line with the recent agreement between the two heads of state of the two countries, Somalia and Ethiopia, in Djibouti on 17 January 1986. The agreement between the two leaders called for the formation of an ad hoc committee. Its first meeting was held in Addis Ababa from 6-9 May 1986 at the foreign minister level.

The joint communique states that at this first meeting the two delegations presented to the ad hoc committee the agenda to be discussed and then agreed to continue the talks at the next meeting to reach a final agreement.

The communique further states that the ad hoc committee also suggested that the two heads of states be given a complete report on the work achieved by the ad hoc committee to date in order to enable them to review the progress made and to issue further directives and make suitable suggestions.

Finally, the joint communique said that the ad hoc committee agreed that the next round of talks will be held in Mogadishu on a date to be agreed upon.

Somali Foreign Minister Challe Dr Jama Barre said that he had met and held talks with Ethiopian head of state Mengistu Haile Mariam and had delivered greetings from Somali President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre. At the same time he also held fruitful talks on the subject under discussion which had been initiated by the two heads of state.

Challe Dr Jama Barre added that both he and his delegation were given a warm and respectful welcome on their arrival in Addis Ababa and during their stay and he thanked the Ethiopian Government. Finally, the minister said that the talks he held with the head of state of Ethiopia and [word indistinct] of the ad hoc committee were held in a cordial atmosphere of understanding based on the desire to find a solution to the problem.

Somali Foreign Minister Challe Abdurahman Jama Barre told reporters at the airport that before the Addis Ababa meeting he had attended the extraordinary meeting of Arab League Foreign Ministers in Fes, Morocco which had been postponed.

The minister and his delegation were welcomed at the airport by Somali Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Muhammad Ali Hamud; Deputy Minister at the Somali Ministry of Information and National Guidance Challe Dr Abdi Rashid Sheikh Ahmed; Permanent Secretary at the Somali Foreign Ministry Challe Ahmed Mohamed Adan; and other officials from the ministry.

TANZANIA

Mwinyi Cables Gromyko on Chernobyl Accident

EA092317 Dar es Salaam External Service in English
1600 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Dar es Salaam: President Ali Hassan Mwinyi has sent a message of condolences to the President of the Soviet Union, Mr Andrey Gromyko, following the recent accident at the nuclear plant in the Ukraine which caused injuries and loss of lives. In his message, President Mwinyi said the event at Chernobyl nuclear plant was a reminder of the urgent need to safeguard the lives of innocent peoples from the dangers caused by nuclear radiations.

Meanwhile, President Mwinyi has expressed Tanzania's desire to strengthen economic and cultural cooperation with Czechoslovakia. The pledge is contained in a message to President Gustav Husak of Czechoslovakia. [words indistinct].

UGANDA

President Museveni Dismisses Assassination Threats

EA101042 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1900 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] President Yoweri Museveni has commended the people of Luwero District for their good politics, which is an example to other areas of the country. The president made the commendation today when he addressed a mammoth crowd at Luwero town on the occasion of the world Red Cross Day.

He said that in uniting with the NRM [National Resistance Movement] and NRA [National Resistance Army] in the struggle against past regimes, the people of Luwero rejected the (?sectarian) politics which has been the downfall of all past governments. He pointed out that wherever the NRA soldiers have gone, the people refer to them as our children, symbolizing the political line adopted by the movement.

The president told the people that the government was giving priority to the provision of food, water, and implements to the war-damaged areas. He revealed that 7 million hoes had been ordered to be distributed in the country. He added that the Nakasero soap factory in Kampala will be rehabilitated to meet the demand for washing soap. He said the government was attaching great importance to the restoration of the value of the currency and enabling everybody to have a reasonable standard of living.

The president cautioned the people against going to offices looking for assistance and advised them to go through their (?ACDAS) [expansion unknown] to facilitate maximum efficiency. He assured them that the threats to assassinate government leaders by Obote supporters from outside were futile, because Obote now has no capacity to come back after failing when he had power and weapons.

CAMEROON

Conference on Apartheid Ends, Minister Comments

AB092009 Yaounde Domestic Service in English
900 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister William Eteki Mboumoua has said that the review of the efforts of the international community to identify, denounce, and fight against apartheid shows that much progress has been achieved at many levels. Eteki Mboumoua was speaking at the closing ceremony of the week-long seminar on international assistance and support for people fighting against racist and apartheid in South Africa. He added that the main (?success) of the international body is the reflection on the [words indistinct] for the elimination of apartheid and discrimination in all its forms.

The Cameroon foreign minister who was speaking to representatives from approximately 100 countries, called for international solidarity because the needs of the victims of apartheid are immediate.

The representative of the UN secretary general, Mr Palmer, on his part, expressed gratitude to the Cameroon Government for having accepted to host this important seminar. Mr Palmer said the conclusion from reports of the seminar were approved in a short time by consensus. He concluded that they at the United Nations will play their part to make some of the resolutions applicable.

CPDM Central Committee Delegation Leaves for Beijing

AB111550 Yaounde Domestic Service in English
1400 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] A delegation of the Central Committee of the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement, CPDM, left Yaounde today for Beijing at the invitation of the Chinese Communist Party. The CPDM Central Committee delegation is led by Mr Andre Nkonga Wandje, vice president of the Central Committee. From China the delegation will go to the Democratic [People's] Republic of Korea at the invitation of the Korean Labor Party. [as heard]

The delegation is made up of Messrs Thomas Edongalame,(Omni Mbandolo), Madam Haman Adama, (Alberto Ronan), and Jean-Marie Etoundi.

GABON

Sao Tome Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

AB111048 Paris AFP in French 0932 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Libreville, 11 May (AFP) — Fradique de Menezes, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, has begun a working visit to Gabon, which is expected to end Monday. Mr Menezes was received in audience on Saturday by President Omar Bongo of Gabon, to whom he delivered a message from Sao Tome and Principe President Manuel Pinto da Coasta. Mr Menezes told AFP: "We want to get out of our insular isolation and assert ourselves within the Central African subregion."

This desire could, in the medium term, lead to Sao Tome's entry into the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa (UDEAC) and consequently into the franc zone.

During his visit, Mr Menezes, who has already had long discussions with his Gabonese counterpart, Martin Bongo, will also meet the minister of civil aviation, a meeting which could lead to the reopening of air links between Sao Tome and Libreville by Air Gabon, informed sources pointed out.

Mr Menezes's visit comes a few days before a "meeting of sectorial consultations" in Sao Tome from 17 to 21 May, as a continuation of the conference [words indistinct]

Resident Sao Tome Opposition Leader Resigns Post

AB111203 Paris AFP in French 0946 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Libreville, 11 May (AFP) — Mr Carlos de Graca has just resigned as chairman of the National Resistance Front of Sao Tome and Principe [FRNSTP] in Lisbon, he disclosed this in Libreville his country of residence.

Mr Da Graca, who was the minister of health of the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe until 1978, observed that his country "is initiating a new era of economic liberalization (...) and an open-door policy with neighboring African states." Within this context and desirous of "playing a useful role in ensuring the well-being of the people of Sao Tome", Mr Da Graca considers that he must resign from the opposition movement. He, however, pointed out to the AFP that he would remain in exile until the total withdrawal of foreign (Angolan) troops from his country" on one hand and "until genuine democratization within the [ruling] party which does not accept any factions now within its ranks," on the other. It will be recalled that the FRNSTP recently merged in Lisbon with the Independent Democratic Union of Sao Tome and Principe (UDISTP) to form the "Opposition Democratic Coalition" (CDO).

Disowns Group In Walvis Bay

AB120705 Paris AFP in English 1319 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Libreville, May 11 (AFP) — Seventy-six Sao Tome nationals who landed their fishing boat in a South African port last week after apparently fleeing their homeland are in no way connected with the West African island state's main opposition group, officials here said.

Carlos da Graca, representative here of the opposition National Resistance Front of Sao Tome and Principe, said the men had been expelled from the rebel group because it had "cladestinely organized a military training camp in Gabon under cover of fishing activities." "This group later fled to Cameroon where it was also expelled a few days ago," he told reporters.

Sao Tome's Foreign Minister Fradique de Menezes, on an official visit, also denied the men were part of the country's opposition, denouncing them as "opportunists... trying to extort money from Sao Tome citizens." They have just been expelled from Cameroon and now through personal ambition they have taken refuge with the South African racist regime," he said.

The 76, all young black men, arrivdd last week aboard their 15-meter vessel at Walvis Bay, an enclave in the South African-administered territory of Namibia. They were given temporary accommodation at a South African air force base there, while immigration officials sought to establish their plans. South African officials said none had asked for political asylum.

RWANDA

Amnesty International Delegation Visits Prisons

AB101815 Paris AFP in French 1203 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Kigali, 10 May (AFP) — The delegation of Amnesty International led by Mr Alpha Abdoulaye Diallo, former minister of foreign affairs and former minister of youth and sports in Guinea, was received on Saturday by the Rwandan head of state, General Juvenal Habyarimana. The delegation has been in Rwanda since last Saturday at the invitation of the Rwandan Government in order to ascertain the situation in Rwanda with regard to the respect of human rights. The delegation thanked the Rwandan president for allowing them to visit the prisons and to hold discussions with various Rwandan officials.

ZAIRE

Chadian Envoy's Statement on Conflict With Libya

AB101323 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1022 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Kinshasa, 10 May (AZAP) — The Chadian conflict is certainly a conflict between Chad and Libya, Maitine Djoumbe, Chad's ambassador to Zaire, told AZAP on Saturday. In a statement to the diplomatic missions and international organizations accredited to Kinshasa, Mr Maitine revealed the contents of a Libyan presidential decree issued by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi last February inviting mercenaries, called volunteers, to join the ranks of the Islamic Legion and the Libyan army stationed in Chadian territory.

The ambassador pointed out that Col al-Qadhdhafi is increasingly losing confidence in his army which is losing ground in Chad and which no longer supports his expansionist ambitions.

These mercenaries, the document indicates, are recruited exclusively in the Arab nations, after filling out applications at the Libyan people's bureaus (embassies) and the bureaus of brotherhood (bureaux des freres). They should fulfill all the qualities demanded in the military arts [l'arts militaire], should have completed military service not more than 3 years prior, and should not have had a rank higher than a colonel in the army.

BURKINA FASO

Communique Issued at Conclusion 'Arafat Visit
AB091857 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 9 May 86

["Final Communique" issued at the end of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Burkina Faso on 9 May at Ouagadougou International Airport — read by Burkinabe Foreign Minister Basile Laetare Guissou]

[Text] Final Communique:

Upon the invitation of Comrade Captain Thomas Sankara, chairman of the CNR [National Council of the Revolution], president of Burkina Faso, and head of the revolutionary government of Burkina Faso, Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolutionary Forces, paid an official visit to Burkina Faso from 7 to 9 May 1986.

The militant people of Kadiogo and Zound Weogo Provinces, mobilized within the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR's], offered a particularly warm and enthusiastic welcome to the leader of the Palestinian Revolution and the delegation accompanying him on his arrival in Ouagadougou, thus testifying to the quality of ties of brotherhood, solidarity, and friendship which exist between the Palestinian and Burkinabe peoples. During his stay in Ouagadougou, the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee held private discussions with Captain Thomas Sankara, CNR chairman, president of Burkina Faso, and paid working visits to Burkinabe senior officials, all of which took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and brotherhood.

Those who participated in these discussions were, on the Palestinian side, Brothers 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, member of the PLO Executive Committee; ('Abd-al Awak Hamid), Chairman 'Arafat's economic adviser; Sulayman Harfi, adviser to chairman 'Arafat on African affairs; 'Imad Shakkur, adviser to chairman 'Arafat; (Amin Abu Hafirak,) assistant manager of the PLO office in Paris' 'Abd al-Rahim Abu Rabah, PLO ambassador to Burkina Faso; on the Burkinabe side were Comrade Captain Pierre Ouedraogo, CDR national general secretary; Major Jean-Baptiste Boukary Lingani, chief of Defense Staff of the People's Armed Forces and minister of Popular Defense; Henri Zongo, minister of economic promotion; and Basile Laetare Guissou, minister of External Relations and cooperation.

During their discussions, President Thomas Sankara and his guest reviewed the international situation and examined in detail the situation in Africa, the Middle East, and the bilateral relations between the Palestinian and Burkinabe revolutions. On the international level, the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the UN Charter, the fundamental principles of nonalignment, and of the Islamic Conference Organization. They expressed their common conviction that the international peace and security can only be guaranteed by taking into account the legitimate and inalienable aspirations of the peoples struggling against hegemonism, imperialism, racism, and zionism, and by the installation of a new and more just international order. To this end, they firmly emphasized the need for people who are victims of aggression, oppressed and exploited peoples, to close their ranks for an effective anti-imperialist combat and an active solidarity.

Touching on the situation in Africa, they paid tribute to the merciless and many-sided struggle being waged by the freedom fighters in South Africa, in occupied Namibia, and generally in southern Africa. In this connection, they severely condemned the despicable apartheid system set up in South Africa by the racist Pretoria regime with the complicity of its imperialist allies, and reaffirmed their support to the South African people and the ANC, their genuine representatives. They also vigorously denounced the growing collaboration and the unwholesome alliance between Israel and the racist Pretoria regime in economic, military, and nuclear fields in particular. They made an urgent appeal to the international community for the implementation of economic sanctions against South Africa as provided for in Chapter 7 of the UN Charter.

With regard to the situation in Namibia, the two leaders firmly demanded the immediate withdrawal of South Africa from its territory, and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435. Finally, they reiterated their support for and solidarity with SWAPO, the true representatives of the Namibian people. They also expressed their support for Angola, in the face of repeated aggressions intended to destabilize the country, and denounced the help and diplomatic support given by certain powers, led by the United States, to the puppet UNITA of Jonas Savimbi, the lackey of the racist South Africans and imperialism, and underlined their solidarity with the other frontline states.

They condemned once again the bombing of the PLO Headquarters in Tunis by Israel as well as the U.S. raid on Tripoli and Benghazi, both of which constitute clear acts of aggression against a struggling people and sovereign states which are members of the United Nations and which are reminiscent of the painful situation imposed on the militant peoples of Grenada and Nicaragua.

Concerning the Middle East, the PLO Executive Council chairman informed President Thomas Sankara of the latest developments in the Palestinian issue as well as the struggle of the valiant Palestinian people to regain their (?inalienable) rights and to foil all plots against them. He sincerely thanked President Sankara for Burkina Faso's constant support for the PLO, demonstrated among other things by its refusal to attend the 40th UN anniversary celebration due to the fact that the PLO and SWAPO were not invited to attend the celebration.

In turn, President Thomas Sankara reaffirmed Burkina Faso's unflinching support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the clearsighted leadership of the PLO, their only and legitimate representative.

The two leaders reaffired their conviction that there cannot be a just and lasting peace in the region unless the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of their own state are recognized. They strongly called for Israel's withdrawal from occupied Palestinian territories as well as from all other occupied Arab territories. The two leaders denounced Israel's behavior in the occupied Palestinian territory, especially its policy of settlement formation and depopulation which is primarily aimed at annexing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. They described as arrogant and scornful the Zionist attitude toward the fundamental principles of international law, UN resolutions, and international public opinion. Under these circumstances, the two leaders admitted that in order for peace to prevail in this part of the world, an international peace conference must be summoned under the auspices of the United Nations and with the active participation of the PLO.

Concerning the Iran-Iraq war which has caused great material damages and which, above all, has led to the loss of human life, the two leaders noted with much concern that the continuation of this war will only serve as a pretext for the intervention of foreign forces in the conflict. They therefore reaffirmed their support for the appeal made by the 1983 New Delhi summit meeting of the Nonaligned Movement for finding a solution to their dispute through negotiation and appealed to the two warring sides to end their hostilities immediately.

Concerning cooperation between the Arab world and Africa, the two leaders stressed the need for cooperation and the strengthening of the relations existing between African and Arab countries. In this regard, they renewed their support for the idea of holding rapidly a second Afro-Arab summit meeting in order to discuss issues of common interest.

President Thomas Sankara briefed the PLO leader on the significant changes which have taken place in Burkina Faso since the advent of the democratic and popular revolution as well as the numerous achievements made by the people of Burkina Faso who are mobilized within the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution. Chairman 'Arafat expressed his admiration for the quality of the achievements. Touching on their specific bilateral relations, the two leaders agreed to strengthen the relations of cooperation and friendship between their peoples and their two revolutions in all the areas of mutual interest and to multiply their consultations.

At the end of his visit to free Burkina Faso, the chairman of the PLO Executive Council, on his own behalf, on behalf of his delegation, and of the Palestinian people, sincerely thanked the Burkinabe people, the CNR, and its chairman, Captian Thomas Sankara, and the revolutionary Government of Burkina Faso for the very fraternal and warm welcome accorded them as well as for the frankness with which they held their discussions.

Issued in Ouagadougou on 9 May 1986

CAPE VERDE

Reportage on Visit of Brazilian President Sarney

Arrives 9 May

AB092120 Paris AFP in French 1829 GMT 9 May 86

[Excerpts] Mindelo (Cape Verde), 9 May (AFP) — President Jose Sarney of Brazil arrived early Friday afternoon in Cape Verde for a 2-day visit, the first to Africa by a Brazilian head of state since that country returned to democratic rule. Mr Sarney, who arrived at the airport of Sal (east of the Cape Verde archipelago), immediately went to Mindelo on the island of San Vincente (northwest of the country) where he was welcomed by the Cape Verdian head of state, Aristides Pereira.

Mr Sarney was given a popular and colorful welcome in Mindelo. In an improvised speech, he conveyed the "tribute paid by the 130 million Brazilians," because of "their respect and admiration for Cape Verde which has been able to overcome drought and fought for its independence." The Brazilian president recited some lines of a poem he had written several years ago on Cape Verde, and was met with a standing ovation from thousands of Cape Verdians who had come to welcome him.

Mr Sarney, who had just visited Portugal, is expected to go to Praia, the capital of this former Portuguese colony, in the evening.

The Cape Verdian and Brazilian presidents will exchange toasts at an official dinner on Friday evening in Praia. On Saturday Mr Jose Sarney will inaugurate the Brazilian Embassy in Praia and will receive Mr Pires Pedro, the Cape Verdian prime minister in audience before leaving Cape Verde at the end of a 48-hour visit.

Concludes Visit 10 May

AB101905 Paris AFP in English 1758 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Praia, May 10 (AFP) — Brazilian President Jose Sarney ended a two-day visit to Cape Verde on Saturday after talks with President Aristides Pereira on bilateral relations and the situation in southern Africa.

A joint communique issued at the end of the visit strongly condemned South Africa's apartheid system and South African "aggression" against neighboring black-ruled states, particularly Mozambique and Angola, which like Brazil and Cape Verde are former Portuguese colonies.

The two leaders also called for the strict implementation of United Nations resolutions calling for free elections and independence in the South African-controlled territory of Namibia.

On bilateral relations, they discussed ways of increasing Brazilian development aid to Cape Verde including the creation of a major trade and transport complex in Cape Verde to handle Brazilian exports to Africa and the Middle East, the communique said.

They also agreed to organize an international exhibition of Brazilian products [words indistinct] next year.

GHANA

Paper Criticizes U.S. 'Propaganda' Over Chernobyl

AB090835 Accra Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 9 May 86

[From the press review]

[Text] The *PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC* says that nowhere is the game in the East-West superpower politics as transparent as in the attempt by the United States to use the accident which occurred on Sunday 25 April this year [date as heard] at the Chernobyl nuclear power station in the Soviet Union as a propaganda ploy. It says the United States is blowing up the accident as an international crisis and creating fear and insecurity among Western Europeans, especially the neighbors of the Soviet Union.

With indecent haste, the United States has demanded that she should be given the right to make an immediate inspection and investigation on the spot, a demand which the officials very well know that the Soviet Union cannot, in self-respect, allow any such poking and moping around her nuclear installations. [sentence as heard] The *GRAPHIC* wants to know the number of times that the Soviet Union has demanded to go and inspect many serious nuclear accidents in the United States on the pretext that some of the radioactive fallout will reach Mexico or Canada.

The paper says one of the reasons behind the U.S. ploy is that by drumming up an unnecessary outcry, she and her allies hope thereby to distract the world public from her aggression against Libya. It is also designed to make us here in Africa forget U.S. support for apartheid South Africa and her funding of bandits and mercenaries like Jonas Savimbi and Holden Roberto. The *GRAPHIC* believes that the world has not forgotten the condemnation of U.S. nuclear blasts in Nevada in recent weeks and it has not forgotten that between 1971 and 1984, there were about 151 similar incidents in 14 other countries, mostly NATO countries.

The paper agrees that there has been a nuclear accident in the Soviet Union. It is also a fact that it is an accident against which nobody is guaranteed safety, but to blow it out of all proportion puts it in the realm of fiction. What the world is interested in, since the United States and the USSR both have stockpiles of these destructive weapons, is for them to draw the conclusions that can prevent future accidents, and not to gloat shamelessly over the misfortune of the USSR to score a point in an East-West game.

LIBERIA

Two Acquitted of Treason in 12 Nov Coup Attempt

AB101136 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1110 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] The Criminal Court A at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia has acquitted Robert Philips and James Holder of charges of treason. The verdict which was delayed for a day due to what was termed the ill-health of Judge Eugene Hilton, was finally handed down yesterday, Friday, following final arguments in the case on Wednesday. The two men were tried along with Anthony Marquee, who earlier pleaded guilty to the charge of treason. However, up to press time, the sentence passed on Marquee is not known. Here is an excerpt of the action in the court:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] [Words indistinct] sworn and intended to bring in the verdict, after carefully considering [words indistinct] and evidence (?reviewed) at the trial, we do unanimously agree that James K. Holder and Robert A. Philips are not guilty. [cheers and applause] [end recording]

Retrial Reportedly Ordered

AB101805 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1710 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Controversy still hangs over yesterday's verdict pronounced at the Criminal Court A in Monrovia over the fate of James Holder, Robert Philips, and Anthony Marquee, accused of involvement in last November 12 invasion by rebel troops.

Following a verdict of not guilty yesterday by the jury, Judge Eugene Hilton, according to today's edition of the *SUNTIMES* newspaper, is reported to have rushed to his chambers only to return disrobed, banging his gavel for order and adding insult to injury by ordering a retrial amidst mounting boos from the crowd. The *SUNTIMES* further said that it was not immediately known what the date of the retrial will be.

James Holder and Robert Philips were tried along with Major Anthony Marquee who earlier pleaded guilty to the charge of treason. Except for Maj Marquee, who was pronounced guilty by the jury, James Holder and Robert Philips were declared free in the verdict announced yesterday.

President Doe Issues 'Stern Warning' to Journalists

AB092048 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1710 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] In a front page headline: I Will Never Mislead the Liberia People in today's edition of *SUNTIMES* newspaper, President Samuel K. Doe has said he has not and will not mislead the Liberian people. President Doe, according to the paper, made the statement yesterday in his Executive Mansion fourth floor office, when he met with the managing editor of the *SUNRISE* [as heard] Group Incorporated, Rufus Darpoh and his news editor, Westmore Dahn. The two journalists were cited in connection with a front page story in yesterday's edition of *SUNTIMES* newspaper headline Do Not Be Mislead by TV Propaganda [words indistinct] In that story, the Executive Committee said the Liberia Action Party, LAP, the Liberian Unification Party, LUP, and the Unity Party, UP quoted Dr Doe as stating [words indistinct] on TV that the three opposition political parties had agreed to cooperate with the NDPL [National Democratic Party of Liberia] government. The three parties described the alleged statement as misleading and false, tending to violate the norms of acting in good faith. According to the *SUNTIMES* newspaper today again, Dr Doe, in a provoked mood, asked: Did I broadcast on television following the meeting? The Liberian leader then, among other things, sounded a stern warning to Mr Darpoh to be careful of his life, adding: God gave you long life, but you are careless with it. Responding, Mr Darpoh explained that the role of the press is a delicate one and it is hard to understand. He then asserted that the *SUNTIMES* newspaper was not against the government, but was indeed in the supreme interest of the Liberian people.

AFP: Senate Seeks To Dissolve Teachers' Union

AB101147 Paris AFP in English 0758 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Monrovia, May 10 (AFP) — A seven-man special committee of the Liberian Senate set up to investigate student disturbances last March has recommended dissolution of the National Union of Liberian Teachers and another association.

Committee Chairman Tuan Wreh told a news conference here Friday that the Union and the Monrovia Consolidated School System (MCSS) Teachers' Association had actively encouraged [word indistinct] "illegal" student demonstration on March 18.

Mr Wreh also described the two organizations as "illegal and unregistered" unions and said the committee had recommended confiscation of their bank accounts and assets. He said all MCSS students should sign a pledge of "good behavior," with penalties including expulsion for serious violations.

NIGERIA

Government Denounces New 'Bantustan' Created by RSA

AB092005 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] The Federal Government had denounced the plan by the racist authorities in South Africa to establish a new Bantustan called Kwandabele. Reacting to the plan, the government says the so-called Pretoria regime has demonstrated to the world her will to continue with the discredited and offensive system of apartheid.

In a statement in Lagos today, the government says the racists have confirmed that they are not ready or interested in bringing freedom, justice and economic progress to the black majority. It reiterates Nigeria's commitment to liberation struggle and total elimination of apartheid in South Africa.

Lome Radio Reports Tribal Clashes in North

AB092039 Lome Domestic service in French
1900 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] In Nigeria, eight people died and several others were injured in clashes that broke out Wednesday between two tribal communities in the north of the country. The hostilities broke out as a result of ethnic differences. Anti-riot policemen were dispatched to the scene to restore order.

Plan Devised To Halt Chadian Refugee Influx

AB111650 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] The problem of desert encroachment is constituting a threat to life and property in Borno State. A Radio Nigeria, Lagos, correspondent in Maiduguri reports that there has been no rainfall since the beginning of the year. [passage indistinct]

Another report from Borno State says the influx of refugees from war-torn Chad is posing a serious problem in the state. Governor Abdul Mumuni Aminu told newsmen in Maiduguri today that the state government had already drawn up a plan to arrest the situation. The governor said that the Federal Government had approved to the plan and had promised to help the state government to contain the situation.

A unit of the Nigerian Air Force has been stationed in the state to undertake regular reconnaissance flights along the country's border with Chad. He also announced that a combined team of the Army, Air Force, and police had been drafted to the border area for effective policing.

TOGO

Reportage on Visit of PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat

Arrives 9 May

AB091410 Lome Domestic Service in French
1230 GMT 9 May 86

[Excerpt] The Togolese people late this morning welcomed Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, who is paying an official visit to our country at the invitation of General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People and president of the Republic. It was President Eyadema, along with members of the government and party officials, who welcomed the commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolutionary Forces upon his arrival.

Talks With Eyadema

AB092240 Lome Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 9 May 86

[Excerpts] The Togolese people today at noon gave a rousing welcome to Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, who is in Lome for an official visit at the invitation of President Gnassingbe Eyadema.

After a short stop at the VIP Lounge of the Lome-Tokoin International Airport, the two men held a short discussion at the presidential suite then moved toward the Distinguished Guest's Residence and were applauded by a large crowd which lined up along the route under the hot mid-day sun. At the Distinguished Guest's Residence, after President Eyadema accompanied Yasir 'Arafat to his apartment, another brief conversation took place between the two leaders. This afternoon, the two men met again [words indistinct] General Gnassingbe Eyadema arrived at the Distinguished Guest's Residence where his guest, Yasir 'Arafat, was waiting on the steps. After saying a few words to one another, the two men went to the 2 Fevrier Hotel where they were to hold a long private discussion. At this very moment as we bring you this cast, the meeting has not as yet ended. Their discussions were expected to center around bilateral relations and issues of cooperation between the Togolese and Palestinian peoples.

On the other hand, Togolese and PLO delegations met this afternoon at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Lome. On this occasion, the Togolese foreign minister, Atsou Koffi Amegah, on behalf of General Gnassingbe Eyadema, welcomed the PLO delegates. The minister of foreign affairs and cooperation explained that relations between Togo and the PLO are very good and fruitful. Atsou Koffi Amegah, who was accompanied by high-ranking officials of his ministry, paid glowing tribute to the Palestinian leader, Yasir 'Arafat, and all those who (?fight) for the Palestinian cause. The minister said: Togo supports the rights of the Palestinian people to have an independent state, and wished for a broader cooperation with the Palestinian central organization.

For his part, the leader of the PLO delegation, Minister ('Abd al-Hassan Ahmad), expressed his sincere gratitude to Togo for its clear stand in favor of the Palestinian people. We have come here, Mr (Ahmad) declared, as Palestinians and also in order to deepen and strengthen cooperation between Arabs and Africans in all the spheres. He expressed his conviction of the need to strengthen their relations. He expressed the firm conviction of the central Palestinian organization to win the battle in spite of the numerous difficulties. This, he is sure, will happen with help from all the friends of Palestine. Apart from Mr (Ahmad), the PLO delegation is made up of Samir Baker, PLO ambassador to Togo.

Concludes Visit 11 May

AB111404 Lome Domestic Service in French
1230 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the forces of the Palestinian revolution, left Lome this morning at the end of his official visit to Togo at the invitation of General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People and president of the Republic.

The PLO leader was seen off by the head of state himself. It was about 0900 when President Eyadema arrived at the Guest of Honor's Palace, where he was welcomed by the PLO leader. After another round of private talks, the two leaders signed a final communique marking the end of Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Togo.

Comments Prior to Departure

AB111848 Lome Domestic Service in French
1230 GMT 11 May 86

[Excerpt] After the final ceremony marking the end of Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Togo and the exchange of documents between the Togolese and PLO delegations, the presidential motorcade left the Guest of Honor's palace for Tokoin Airport. Prior to his departure, Yasir 'Arafat made a statement in which he expressed satisfaction with the opportunity offered him to meet with President Gnassingbe Eyadema, and thanked the Togolese people and their leadership for their constant support of the Palestinian people's struggle.

[Begin recording] ['Arafat in English fading into French translation] On behalf of the Palestinian people, on behalf of the PLO, and on behalf of the freedom fighters, I had a very important opportunity to come and visit a brotherly and friendly country led by my friend and brother, His Excellency General Gnassingbe Eyadema. I have the honor to say that this visit is a historic visit during which I had very fruitful discussions with His Excellency President Eyadema. I can say that during this very short period I was able to appreciate the great sympathy and the unflinching support of His Excellency President Eyadema and of the Togolese people for the just cause of our struggle, which we cannot forget. I am anxious to thank His Excellency Gen Eyadema, his government, his party, and the Togolese people for their unflinching support for our cause.

[Unidentified reporter] What is the current situation of the Palestinians in Lebanon?

['Arafat] There are about 1 million Palestinians in Lebanon where they have been living since 1948. Those Palestinians have participated and have always participated in all the activities taking place in Lebanon. But after our departure from Beirut, our people were confronted with terrorist activities led by Israel such as the Shabra and Shatila massacres. Another massacre occurred in these same refugee camps shortly afterward. During the first massacres, that is in Shabra and Shatila, we lost 5,000 martyrs, while during the second attack we lost 7,000 martyrs with many people injured.

At the level of the PLO leadership we are trying to be responsible to our people and are doing everything possible to achieve this objective. We will do everything possible to ensure stability, security, and peace in Lebanon. We will also do everything possible to ensure the unity of the Lebanese people, the integrity of the Lebanese territory, and the sovereignty of the Lebanese territory. [End recording]

Joint Communique Issued

AB111915 Lome Domestic Service in French
1230 GMT 11 May 86

[Joint communique issued at the conclusion of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Togo from 9 to 11 May — read by Togolese Foreign Minister Atsou Koffi Amega]

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People [RPT] and president of the Republic, and in the framework of brotherly and cordial relations existing between Republic of Togo and the Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO], His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestine revolutionary forces, undertook an official visit to Lome, Republic of Togo, from 9 to 11 May 1986.

Talks between the two leaders took place in a frank, cordial, and brotherly atmosphere, during which they carefully examined all current problems in the bilateral, African, and international spheres.

On bilateral issues, the two leaders expressed satisfaction with the excellent relations of cooperation existing between Togo and the PLO, the relations which (?need to be strengthened) in the political, economic, and cultural areas. They agreed to organize frequent meetings at several levels in order to constantly strengthen ties between their two governments and people. They also decided to sign an agreement on economic cooperation between their two governments.

On the Middle East, the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, Yasir 'Arafat, informed the RPT founding chairman, Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema, of developments in the situation in the Middle East, and the activities of the PLO [words indistinct].

In this regard, the president of the Republic of Togo reiterated his firmest support, and that of the Togolese people for the Palestinian people, in their just struggle to achieve the right to self-determination and the creation of their own state. He encouraged the PLO leader to continue this struggle in order to ensure long-lasting peace (?in the Middle East).

On issues concerning Africa, the two leaders noted with satisfaction the similarity in their views on the situaitons in Chad and southern Africa. They agreed that these crises have been aggravated through foreign interference. On Chad, Chairman 'Arafat and President Eyadema expressed their preoccupation with the latest developments in the situation in that country. They expressed their conviction that the solution to the Chadian problem lies in national reconciliation between the parties and the state, and the withdrawal of all foreign forces.

On southern Africa, the two leaders noted the recent events in South Africa and concluded that the concessions made by the racist regime of Pretoria are far from satisfying the black majority but rather tend to legalize apartheid instead of abolishing it. They reasserted their unflinching support for the struggle of the South African people under the wise and courageous leadership of the African National Congress for the total liberation and emancipation of the majority of the people of South Africa.

Analyzing the Namibian issue, they again expressed their unconditional support for SWAPO, the only legitimate representative of the Namibian people in their (?constant) struggle for the liberation of their people. They reiterated their strong condemnation of the Pretoria government's maneuvers aimed at delaying Namibia's independence.

They launched an appeal to the world community to oblige the racist South African regime to proceed with the immediate and unconditional implementation of Resolution 435 adopted in 1975 by the UN Security Council. The two leaders unreservedly condemned the South African regime for its acts of aggression and destabilization against the Frontline States, and against other independent states in the region. They also condemned the alliance between the racist South African regime and the Zionist regime of Israel for the similarity in their acts against the liberation and emancipation of the African and Middle East peoples.

On the Middle East, they deplored the fact that the situation is not improving in that region in spite of efforts being made from all quarters. On the Palestinian issue, they agreed that there can never be long-lasting peace without the participation of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab and Palestinian lands. They reasserted the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and to the establishment of a sovereign and independent Palestinian state.

The two leaders agreed that the recipe for achieving peace is to hold an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations, and with the participatcon of the PLO. They condemned the [words indistinct] UN resolutions on the participation of Arab Palestinians. The two leaders reiterated their call for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli invasionary forces from Arab occupied lands and [words indistinct] of the UN Security Council.

They expressed their preoccupation with the Iraq-Iran war. They noted with regret that this war [words indistinct] is a destabilizing factor in the region. They therefore launched an appeal to the two warring factions to stop fighting in accordance with the appeal launched by the Nonaligned summit at New Delhi.

On the world economic crisis, the two leaders noted that the best solution to this crisis is better North-South cooperation aimed at the equitable distribution of the earth's resources, and the creation of a new world economic order. They stressed the need for South-South cooperation, emphasizing the importance of development, and the strengthening of relations existing between Arab and African countries. In this regard, they called for an Afro-Arab summit in the shortest possible time in order to examine problems facing Arab and African countries.

At the end of his visit, his excellency, Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, expressed the gratitude of the Palestinian people to his excellency, President Gnassingbe Eyadema, his government, and people, for the [words indistinct] and their support for the just Palestinian cause, and the hospitality shown him and his delegation.

Members of the PLO delegation were: 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, member of the PLO Executive Council; Abu al-Ala Ahmad, Chairman 'Arafat's economic adviser; Sulayman Harfi, Chairman 'Arafat's adviser for African affairs; 'Imad Shakkur, presidential adviser: Samir Baker, PLO ambassador to Togo; and (Amir Abu Harirak), deputy PLO bureau director in Paris.

Members of the Togolese delegation were Barry Moussa Barque, member of the Political Bureau and minister of equipment, posts and telecommunications; Koffi Atsou Amega, member of the Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Yao Kunale Eklo, member of the Central Committee and RPT administrative secretary; Nelson (Itete), secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign affairs and cooperation; Felix (Houda), director of cultural cooperation in charge of international cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation [words indistinct].

Signed in Lome on 11 May 1986 by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestine revolutionary forces, and by His Excellency Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema, RPT founding chairman, and president of the Republic of Togo.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Speaks at Tbilisi Dinner 9 May

MB101052 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT !0 May 86

[Speech by Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, at an official dinner in Tbilisi on 9 May — recorded]

[Text] I should like, first of all, to express our gratitude for the official dinner given in our honor today. I should also like to thank you very much for the warm and fraternal reception accorded us since our arrival in this city of Tbilisi, the capital of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Georgia.

During our stay here, we were able to exchange expressions and views on various issues of bilateral interest connected with our cooperation as well as the friendship and solidarity between Angola and the USSR. We were also able to familiarize ourselves with our important achievements in economic, social, scientific, technical, and cultural fields.

We noted that your country has been developing through implementation of CPSU guidelines, thus improving workers' living conditions and consolidating a developed socialist society. It was, therefore, with great satisfaction that we learned from you that this republic has traditionally implemented the national development plans. We congratulate you on your achievements of the entire progressive community, achievements of all peoples fighting against imperialism and for peace, well-being, and development. By consolidating the Soviet economy, by developing this economy and subsequently strengthening its industry, you are also strengthening the firm rearguard of all peoples fighting for peace and liberty.

As you are well aware, existing relations between the peoples of Angola and the USSR are long established. They were established at the time when the Angolan people were still fighting Portuguese colonialism. After our independence, Angola and the USSR further developed relations based on the treaty of friendship and cooepration signed between our two states.

It is with great pleasure that we note our implementation of cooperation in various fields of social life, thus contributing to economic and social reconstruction in Angola. It also gives us pleasure to note that workers and technicians of this Soviet Republic of Georgia have participated in this effort by serving in Angola in various fields. Accordingly, the main aim of our visit to the USSR was precisely to assess this cooperation and find ways and means of further strengthening the friendship and solidarity between our two peoples, parties, and states.

This cooperation is important for Angola. It is important to all peoples who oppose oppression in Africa. It is a new kind of cooperation based on the principles of proletarian internationalism. You are aware of the existence of the system of apartheid in southern Africa where our country is situated. The racist South African regime has been systematically organizing acts of aggression and destabilization not only against the People's Republic of Angola but also against other states of the region. It is, therefore, our desire to continue to strengthen this cooperation in order to consolidate Angola economically and politically, thus enabling it to strengthen the independent role it plays in Africa, particularly in southern Africa. Angola plays an important role today because of its support for the national liberation movements.

The ongoing struggle in southern Africa is, in our view, a struggle of all exploited and oppressed peoples against imperialism. It is a vanguard of all progressive forces opposed to imperialist domination. That is why we think that responsibility must be collective. There is a need for all progressive forces to firmly and resolutely support Namibia so that this country may achieve, as soon as possible, its independence based on UN Security Council Resolution 435. We also think that it is our collective responsibility to mobilise all material, moral, political, and diplomatic support for the South African patriots who heroically fight racist domination and for democracy and liberty.

I should not fail to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the solidarity once again reiterated by the comrade first secretary of the Central Committee, on behalf of the residents of Georgia in particular and the Soviet people in general with the heroic struggle waged by the Angolan people against external aggression. Since our arrival here in the USSR, we have felt this solidarity and great sympathy everywhere we have been, particularly here in Georgia. Here, we had the privilege and great honor to participate in celebrations marking the Victory Day over fascism. We saw how the residents of Georgia and the Soviet people in general once again extolled Soviet heroism, fighting traditions, and the patriotic spirit of self-denial, thanks to which you were able to defend the USSR from attacks by fascists, defeating and expelling them. During this celebration, marked today, we learned how to strengthen unity and transfer tradition from old to new generations for the continuation of struggle for an increasingly stronger and more powerful USSR on the path to communism.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all success in implementing all guidelines and notes established by your party's 27th congress. There is no doubt that these objectives will be carried out inasmuch as we have faith in the ability of your workers and your people in general, their creativity, devotion, and commitment. Your party is strong, well-tested and forged in struggle, and there is no doubt that victory is certain.

In conclusion, I would like to ask the comrade first secretary to toast to strengthening the friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between the peoples of Angola and the USSR.

UNITA Claims Responsibility for 24 Apr Bomb Attack

PA111234 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1051 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Lisbon, 11 May (EFE) — The Angolan rebels of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) today claimed responsibility for the destruction of a hotel in Huambo (central part of the country) which resulted from a bomb explosion in which "17 foreigners" were killed. The target of the terrorist attack claimed by UNITA was the "Roma" hotel, Huambo's most important hotel, which according to the rebels "was completely destroyed."

A communique issued by UNITA, whose members are called "bandits" by the Angolan Government, states that 17 foreigners, "including Romanians and Cubans," as well as 7 Angolan soldiers died during the "operation," while 16 others were wounded. According to UNITA, the attack occurred on 24 April.

UNITA Forces Kill 2 Cubans, 59 FAPLA 1-5 May

MB120714 (Clandestine) KUP in English to Southern and Central Africa 0600 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 12 May, KUP — UNITA forces acting in the provinces of Uige in the north, Huambo in the central plateau,and Lunda in the northeast, have killed 61 enemy soldiers, that is, 2 Cubans and 59 FAPLA, brought down a MiG-21, destroyed a bridge and 9 enemy vehicles between the 1st and the 5th of May 1986, revealed a UNITA official communique from the General Chief of Staff published recently. The same communique also said that UNITA suffered 8 dead, 21 wounded, and 2 guns lost during the same period.

MALAWI

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Zimbabwe

MB091856 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Malawi and Zimbabwe today signed a general cooperation and friendship agreement which establishes a joint commission of cooperation and friendship between the two countries. The agreement was signed at Sanjika Palace in Blantyre by the Zimbabwe prime minister, the Right Honorable Robert Mugabe and His Excellency the Life President Ngwazi Dr Kamuzu Banda at the end of the 3-day official visit to Malawi by the Zimbabwe prime minister.

The commission will embrace various spheres of bilateral cooperation. In a joint communique, the Right Honorable Robert Mugabe and his excellency the life president noted with satisfaction that the political, economic, social, and cultural relations have certainly grown from strength to strength.

On the situation in southern Africa, the Zimbabwe prime minister and the Ngwazi called for the immediate implemenation of Resolution 435 of the United Nations Security Council which calls for self-determination and independence for the Namibian people, while at the same time reaffirms the moral, political, and diplomatic support for the Namibian people in their struggle for independence. The Right Honorable Robert Mugabe and the life president also called for the abolition of apartheid in South Africa, which they said is a source of instability in the region.

The communique also said the two leaders expressed concern over the destructive economic consequences of Malawi and Zimbabwe created by armed bandtis in Mozambique. In his send off speech, his excellency the life president reiterated the people of Malawi and Zimbabwe have long standing ties in that Malawians have worked and some are still working in Zimbabwe, but the life president pointed out that the visit by the Right Honorable Robert Mugabe has strengthened even further the relations existing between the two countries. The life president also said that he had accepted an invitation from the Zimbabwe prime minister to visit Zimbabwe and that he and Mama Cecilia Kadzamira would be going to Zimbabwe sometime next year.

In his speech, the Right Honorable Robert Mugabe expressed his profound gratitude to his excellency the life president and the people of Malawi for the warm welcome his delegation received everywhere [words indistinct]. The Zimbabwe prime minister said the visit has been very successful and that he and his delegation had learned a lot about Malawi, particularly the manner in which the Malawi Congress Party is organized. The Zimbabwe prime minister and Madame Sally Mugabe, arrived in the country on Tuesday this week accompanied by senior cabinet ministers. During their stay in the country, they visited the civic center in Blantyre, the Kamuzu Academy in Kasungu, the national headquarters of the Malawi Congress Party, the civic center, and the natural resources training college in Lilongwe. The delegation also visited places of interest in Mangochi and Chulu.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel To Pay 5-Day Visit to Japan 26 May

MB101228 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] President Samora Machel is to pay a 5-day official visit to Japan beginning on the 26 of this month, according to a Foreign Ministry announcement last night. President Machel is visiting Japan at the invitation of Japan's Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakosone. The Mozambican leader will be accompanied by his wife, Graca Machel, who is also the minister of education.

During the visit, President Machel is expected to be received by his majesty the emperor of Japan. He will also hold meeting with several Japanese political personalities. Bilateral cooperation and questions related to international situation will be discussed in the meetings. The Foreign Ministry statement says the visit is expected to contribute much in strengthening of relations between Mozambique and Japan. The forthcoming visit will be the first ever by the Mozambican head of state since the two countries opened diplomatic relations. The first visit to Japan by a Mozambican Government official was in March 1984. That visit was by the minister of foreign affairs, Joaquim Chissano.

Renamo: 325 Mozambique, Zimbabwe Troops Killed

PA120015 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2341 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Lisbon, 11 May (EFE) — The Mozambique rebel Renamo group today claimed here to have killed 276 Mozambique and 49 Zimbabwe regular troops in recent guerrilla actions. According to Jorge Correia, Renamo representative in Europe, one of the main guerrilla operations was an ambush of a military column in the Maputo area on 6 May, in which 9 soldiers and a captain of the Mozambique army were killed. He also said that the border town of Nanaacha, 78 km south of Maputo, and Machungo, a port on the mouth of the Save River in the province of Sofala, were occupied by the rebels on 5 and 7 May.Correia said that Renamo carried out several actions from 1 to 8 May in the area around Maputo, particularly in Matola, Bairro da Liberade, Machava, and Capembe.

Veloso Meets French Prime Minister in Paris

MB091912 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Mozambique's minister of cooperation, Jacinto Veloso, held talks today in Paris with the French prime minister, Jacques Chirac, on relations between the two countries. A source in the Mozambican embassy in Paris said during the meeting, Mr Chirac reaffirmed France's readiness and willingness to continue developing and consolidating cooperation with Mozambique in all fields. The source said discussions between Mr Veloso and Mr Chirac was very cordial and peaceful. The two men discussed concrete measures to be taken in the short-term to boost cooperation between France and Mozambique. A spokesman of the French prime minister's office said Mr Veloso and Mr Chirac also discussed the situation in southern Africa. Mr Veloso, who is on an official visit to France, also held meetings today with the French foreign minister and cooperation minister. The meetings are also said to have been fruitful. Mozambique Ambassador to France Isaac Murargy accompanied Mr Veloso at the talks.

NAMIBIA

Ministers Speak on Security Issues at Parade

MB110849 Johannesburg International Service in English 0600 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] The minister of nature conservation, mining, trade and tourism in South-West Africa/Namibia, Mr Andreas Shipanga, says the police force in this country is there only to hit the enemy but to protect and [word indistinct] the population. Mr Shipanga was speaking at a parade of the South-West Africa/Namibia Police Counter-Insurgency Unit at (?Ehoma) in central Ovambo.

Speaking at the same parade, the minister of national training, Mr Andrew Matjila, said the government of national unity did not want to get involved in a war, but said it was the government's duty to protect its citizens against guerrillas. Mr Matjila expressed the wish that South-West Africa/Namibians would remain motivated to overcome their present situation and not,like SWAPO, fight to dominate other racial groups in the country.

SWAPO Claims 132 RSA Soldiers Dead in 7 Weeks

MB091930 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1840 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Harare, May 9, SAPA — The South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) insurgents killed more than 132 South African soldiers during the past seven weeks, according to a SWAPO communique released in Harare today, ZIANA reports. Fifteen of those killed included local "special agents" in (SWA/) Namibia. Many more troops and agents were wounded in battles with SWAPO, the report said. SWAPO's military wing, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), laid ambushes and landmines, it said.

PLAN destroyed 25 military trucks, 77 telephone poles, partially or completely destroyed three bases, brought down two DC-3 transport planes and seized large qunatities of arms, ammunition and other materials.

The communique said that coinciding with SWAPO's 26th anniversary on April 17, "PLAN intensified both political mobilisation among the masses of Namibia and military actions against the illegal occupationist South African forces and their agents in Namibia." The statement said PLAN combatants were continuing to benefit from the "overwhelming" support of the people of SWA/Namibia.

A spokesman for the South African Defence Force in Pretoria, approached for comment by SAPA, said tonight: "This latest burst of SWAPO rhetoric is totally ludicrous and is as usual no more than blatant distortions of reality. The facts of the matter are well known and have been made public by the South West African Territory Force in Windhoek." He added: "The only success SWAPO could claim is the murder of defenceless people, the abduction of innocent children, and the maiming of people by the cowardly laying of landmines."

SWAPO Insurgents Attack Police Base 11 May

MB111152 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1103 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Windhoek, May 11, SAPA — A group of 55 SWAPO insurgents attacked a police base at Onhangwena in northern SWA/Namibia on Tuesday with instructions to abduct a white policeman and to seize a Casspir armoured vehicle, according to a news report published in Windhoek today. The commanding officer of the base, Sgt Jan Ellis, said a guard had noticed the insurgents at about 1am and in the subsequent heavy firefight and floow-up operations 15 insurgents were killed and two were captured. A member of the Ovambo homeguard in a nearby village died when an RPG-7 rocket fired by insurgents hit his hut. Three civilians, among them a minor, were injured when a mortar bomb of the insurgents exploded in the village of a member of the SWA/Namibian National Assembly, Mr Gotlieb Dan.

Details of the attack were disclosed on a visit to the base at the weekend by three members of the SWA/Namibian transitional cabinet, Mr Andrew Matjila, Mr Moses Katjiuongua and Mr Andreas Shipanga. Sgt Ellis said that shortly before the attack a police guard was alerted by a noise and when he lit up the area with his torch, he caught the insurgents in the beam as they were cutting through the wire fence. "They began firing and the rest of the camp were awakened by the shots and the explosions," he said. A total of 13 mortar bombs fell in the base. "We ran to our positions and returned the fire," Sgt Ellis said.

Two insurgents were killed in the attack before they could penetrate the base and two seriously wounded insurgents were captured later that morning. At first light a follow-up operation was launched by the SWA police force's counter-insurgency unit and in an armed encounter late that afternoon 13 insurgents were shot dead. Two policemen were injured in the attack on the base but there were no further casualties, Sgt Ellis said. Quantities of armaments and documents were seized, from which it appeared the insurgents had a detailed sketch of the lay-out of the base, and that the attack had been well planned.

Voice of Namibia Comments on Brussels Conference

EA101126 Addis Ababa Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 7 May 86

[Station commentary: "On the Diplomatic Offensive for Namibia's Liberation"]

[Text] An international conference in support of the struggle of the Namibian people and their liberation movement, SWAPO, opened in the Belgian capital, Brussels, on Monday [5 May]. The conference has been organized against the background of continued South African intransigence and maneuvering regarding the speeding [as heard] and genuine liberation of Namibia. It is being held at a time when the illegal occupationist regime and its imperialist allies have launched an unprecedented campaign of slander and lies aimed at discrediting the vanguard of the Namibian people's struggle, SWAPO, and its time-tested leadership. The Brussels conference is also being held in the year of the 20th anniversary of the termination of South Africa's mandate to rule Namibia by the UN General Assembly in 1966.

Underlining the urgency of the task of ending South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia speedily, the UN Council for Namibia, the legal administering authority over the territory, and SWAPO, as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people, have resolved to launch a concerted diplomatic offensive for the immediate and unconditional implementation of Security Council Resolution 435. The Brussels conference is just one of these manifestations on the diplomatic front. In July another international conference on Namibia is scheduled for Vienna, Austria. Later in the year the UN General Assembly is to hold a special session on Namibia.

The purpose of these conferences is to bring pressure to bear on the racist South African regime and its imperialist supporters, notably the United States, Britain, and the FRG, to facilitate the unfettered independence of Namibia in the near future. These conferences will also be an opportunity for peace-loving and justice-upholding humanity to intensify all-round and unconditional support to the Namibian people through SWAPO.

If the regime continues to show contempt for the wishes and aspirations of the Namibian people and international public opinion as it has done hitherto, then there is no alternative than to bring it to book. The only effective peaceful option will be comprehensive mandatory sanctions. In that connection a world conference on sanctions against South Africa, to be held in Paris in June, should be an opportunity for the international community to force the regime to relinquish its illegal grip on Namibia and dismantle apartheid in South Africa. SWAPO of Namibia has declared 1986 the year of general mobilization and decisive action for final victory, and it is under the guidance of that slogan that it is intensifying the national liberation struggle on all fronts. While we shall continue to bear the brunt of the struggle ourselves, it is an inescapable moral and legal responsibility of the international community to actively work for the speediest decolonization of Namibia.

The Brussels international conference and the other international conferences on Namibia must therefore contribute significantly to the ending of colonial slavery in Namibia. Everything for the struggle! All for victory!

SOUTH AFRICA

Police Conduct 'Security Operation' in Alexandra

'High Profile' To Continue

MB100749 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0741 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Johannesburg, May 10, SAPA — Security forces are carrying out a security operation in the township of Alexandra last night due to "a high level of lawlessness which has been continuing in the area," police said today. A statement from the police Public Relations Division said the security forces would continue to keep a "high profile in Alexandra. The township operation would carry on as long it was necessary to restore law and order to the area." The statement said the operation was necessary because apart from the "usual incidents at points of unrest there was a high incidence of vehicle hijackings and intimidation. No further lawlessness will be tolerated and the sooner the lawbreakers understand this the better," it said. The statement said the security forces regrets any inconvenience to law abiding people in and around the township and asks them to see the importance of the operation which is being carried out for their own interests. "The operation was mounted to control crime, unrest and other unruliness," it said.

Roadblocks, Searches Underway

MB100840 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0831 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Johannesburg, May 10, SAPA — Police and members of the South African Defence Force sealed off the troubled township of Alexandra and have arrested five people since the security operation there began at midnight, police said today. A police spokesman in Alexandra said the five men had been arrested on charges ranging from possession of drugs and stolen property to driving without a licence. Roadblocks have been erected and residents are being searched on their way into and out of the township. He said the security forces were receiving "excellent cooperation" from Alexandra residents but he said the situation there was "tense."

A resident of Alexandra told SAPA this morning that all the entrances to the township had been sealed off and there was a "large presence of police and defence force members." He said everyone leaving or entering Alexandra is being "searched and screened." He said armed members of the security forces were heavily deployed in main streets of the township and there were a "lot of police in vehicles as well as people on foot" involved in the operation. He too described the situation there as "tense."

1670 Police Involved

MB101136 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1112 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Johannesburg, May 10, SAPA — Police said today that 16 people have so far been arrested in trouble-torn Alexandra township which as been sealed off by security forces since last night. Those arrested were detained in connection with drug possession, possession of stolen property, and one person was arrested for driving without a licence.

The 1670-strong security force moved into Alexandra at midnight and erected roadblocks and started conducting house-to-house searches. Members of the security force were handing out pamphlets at the roadblocks asking Alexandra residents if they were "tired of being harassed?" Police said the operation was launched because of "a high level of lawlessness which has been continuing in the area."

A statement from the police Public Relations Division said the security forces would continue to keep a high profile in Alexandra and the operation would carry on "as long it was necessary to restore law and order to the area."

Alexandra residents contacted today said that taxis were told to stop operating from 7am "in order to keep people at home," one township dweller said. He added that pepole were being given pamphlets at all of the many roadblocks in the township.

The pamphlets said: "Are you tired of being harassed? The police need information concerning people who are:
" — preventing your children's education;
" — about people who are keeping you from work;
" — about people who stop you to buy where you like;
"Let us protect you," the pamphlet said and then gave a telephone number where information could be given anonymously and assured people that the information would be "kept confidential."

One Alexandra resident said that police were "thoroughly searching all the people and cars" going through the roadblocks. He added that residents had to undergo up to six of these searches before being able to leave the township. Another Alexandra resident said the security forces was heavily armed and "groups of two or three were standing a few meters apart" thoughout the township. "They are just like bees swarming all over Alex," he said.

The chairman of the Alexandra Action Committee, Mr Moses Mayakeso, said that apart from the present operation the security force presence in the township had made life "very difficult" for the residents and added that his group would contact employers to allow people to sleep at their place of work as it was impossible to rest in Alexandra. "For the past few weeks we have been hearing gunshots in the night and there are a lot of searchlights all over the place making sleep difficult," he said. He added that since last night no shots had been heard in the township. Regarding the police pamphlets, he claimed it was the police who were harassing the residents and spoke of the gunshots and the use of searchlights.

18 Reported Arrested

MB110553 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1736 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Johannesburg, May 10, SAPA — A total of 18 people were arrested in the troubled township of Alexandra today since a 1670-strong security force sealed off the area at midnight last night, police said. Lt Pieree Louw, the police media liaison officer for the Witwatersrand, said this evening the situation in Alexandra was "quiet." He said two stolen cars had been recovered and the 18 people were arrested in connection with dealing in or possession of dagga [marijuana], possession of stolen goods, and driving without a licence.

Earlier today a statement from the police Public Relations Division in Pretoria said the security operation had been mounted to combat an increasing wave of lawlessness in the township.

'Comrades' Reportedly Running Alexandra

MB110515 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1727 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Johannesburg, May 11, SAPA — A shadowy political group called "the comrades" has taken over the running of strife-torn Alexandra townships since the mass resignation last month of the town council. A Johannesburg newspaper, *BUSINESS DAY*, will tomorrow publish an exclusive inside story about this group which claims Alexandra is 100 per cent uner its control, according to *BUSINESS DAY* managing editor, Neil Jacobsohn.

He said in a statement to news agencies and radio stations that against this background have arisen the "people's courts," about which hair-raising tales are told in the townships. These courts "dispense a harsh justice" — including, say some, the feared "necklace" — a blazing, petrol-drenched car-tyre around the neck — for police informers and other major offenders.

A *BUSINESS DAY* staffer followed a dangerous chain of contacts to meet the "comrades." He arranged meetings with anonymous people who kept their faces hidden, or who gave him directions in the dark. Finally, he was granted permission to sit in one a case of the "people's court." Jacobsohn said the report details how the court handles a charge of housebreaking and theft against a young black man — because "hardly anyone goes to the police these days — they report their cases to the comrades."

He said the response of the authorities has been harsh, culminating this weekend in a massive raid by hundreds of SA police and soldiers.

Alexandra Funeral for April Unrest Victims 15 May

MB091700 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1654 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Johannesburg, May 9, SAPA — The Alexandra Action Committee (AAC) intends to hold a funeral on May 15 for up to 20 people killed in unrest in the township on April 22 and 28, the committee said today. An AAC spokesman, Mr Naud Moitse, told a press conference in Johannesburg that so far only nine of the victims had been identified and one, Mr Vusi Silango, had already been buried. Mr Moitse said: "Township residents would like to bury all their dead ... but so far there are only eight bodies which have been identified. The other 12 are missing — feared dead."

The AAC intends to take legal steps to be allowed to hold the funeral in the Alexandra stadium and will ask that the South African Defence Force be asked to vacate the stadium. He said the stadium had been turned into a "sort of a military base" and no one was allowed to use it. "There is no real alternative venue for the funerals as the churches and halls in the township will not be able to handle the number of people who are expected to attend," Mr Moitse said.

The funeral has been tentatively scheduled to start at 9am and confirmed speakers include: Mrs Winnie Mandela, Mr Elijah Barayi, the COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions] president, and a United Democratic Front office bearer, Mr Trevor Manuel.

The names of the dead identified so far are: Mr Colin Ntohla, Mr Elias Mduli, Mr Victor Banda, Mr Vusi Dube, Mr Ace Shlongwane, Mr Albion Makathini, and Mr Jacob Phefada.

The committee said it would also ask for there to be no police or Defence Force presence at the funeral.

"We have a good record of behaviour in the past and don't need to be told how to conduct ourselves at a funeral," Mr Moitse said.

Mr Moitse also mentioend yesterday's attacks on a church in nearby Bramley and on the Kew house of Mr Martin van der Ploeg who was actively engaged in working towards a peaceful settlement of the situation in South Africa. There have been reports that these attacks were carried out by extreme right-wing elements and Mr Moitse said the AAC had "strong indication that off-duty policemen were involved in vigilante activities." "People are scared to come forward and make statements because of a fear of reprisals," he said, adding that the committee had a number of affidavits concerning yesterday's incidents as well as others in the township.

A spokesman for the police Public Relations Division in Pretoria said today he could not comment on the allegations "until a formal complaint" has been made to the SAP. A SADF spokesman in Pretoria said he was not able to comment on the allegations that the Alexandra stadium had been turned into a "sort of military base" as all matters of unrest had to be referred to the police.

Influx Control Abolition Bill Tabled in Parliament

MB091325 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1255 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Parliament, May 9, SAPA — The abolition of influx control bill, which will do away with the pass book as an influx control measure, but at the same time tighten control on "nuisances such as disorderly squatting", was tabled here today. A memorandun attached to the bill says the government accepts that freedom of movement to and in urban areas should apply "on a non-discriminatory basis for all citizens of the Republic of South Africa, taking into consideration the distinctive settlement circumstances of communities in the republic". Government urbanisation policy, it says, is that:

— urbanisation measures will not draw a distinction on the ground of race or colour;
— influx control as applied in terms of the Black (Urban Areas) Consolidation Act of 1945 will be abolished;
— the reference book system as an influx control measure will be abolished and replaced by uniform identity documents issued to all South Africans. Legislation to bring this about would be introduced by the minister of home affairs; and
— universal measures to combat nuisances such as disorderly squatting, slums, and conditions that contain a health hazard will, where necessary, be "amended and applied more effectively".

A landowner convicted of ignoring such a prohibition will be liable to a R1,000 fine or six months jail, or both. It will be no defence for an owner to say that the squatters have settled on his land without his permission unless he proves in court that he is "actually pursuing" measures to get them off. This new section is coupled in the bill with an existing provision which prohibits anyone from settling on land without the permission of the owner. The penalty for contravention of this provision will be an increased fine from R200 to R1,000. The six months imprisonment for both stays. An existing clause which makes a squatter who stays on after being convicted, guilty of a "continuing offence" with penalties that increase with each day he stays, is to be scrapped. The fine for an owner who permits the erection of a building not approved of by the local authority on his land is to be increased from R500 to R2000. The maximum jail term — 12 months — stays the same, and the landowner may still be liable to both fine and imprisonment.

The penalty for an owner who fails to notify a local authority or the Department of Consititutional Development of the presence on his land of an unauthorised structure is to go up from R200 to R1,000, and remains coupled with a possible six-month jail term.

The fine for anyone contravening regulations laid down by the minister in connection with an emergency camp is to be increased from R100 to R500 for a first conviction, and from R200 to R1,000 for any subsequent conviction. The jail terms, of up to three months and up to six months, stay the same. The fine for anyone hindering any official authorised by the department to demolish a squatter dwelling, or by a magistrate to move squatters to another area, is to be increased from R500 to R2,000. The jail term of up to one year stays the same. Section 3C of the prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, which prevents employers from introducing employees into an urban area under certain circumstances unless the local authority has certified that proper accommodation is available, will be repealed.

The memorandum attached to the bill says that as some local authorities "do not have the ability to handle squatting" the bill gives the state president the power to entrust the execution of the squatting act to "a particular authority or functionary" within the area of jurisdiction of that local authority.

A schedule to the bill lists seven acts and two proclamations which are to be repealed entirely, and another 25 acts which are to be repealed in part. To be repealed are the:

— Blacks (Urban Areas) Consolidation Act, 1945;
— Administrators Powers (Validation) Act, 1950;
— Blacks (Urban Areas) Amendment Acts of 1955 and 1978;
— Blacks (Prohibition of Interdicts) Act, 1956;
— Black Laws Amendment Act, 1957;
— Contributions in respect of Black Labour Act, 1972; and
— Proclamations 270 of 1966 and R 74 of 1968. The latter proclamation deals with black labour regulations.

To be partially repealed are the:

— Black Laws Amendment Acts of 1937, 1952, 1963, 1964, 1968, 1970, 1974, 1976, 1977 and 1978;
— Development Trust and Land Amendment Acts, 1936, 1939, 1954, 1956 and 1958;
— Black Laws Further Amendment Act, 1957;
— Group Areas Act, 1966;
— Black Affairs' Administration Act, 1971;
— Second Black Laws Amendment Act, 1978;
— Laws on Cooperation and Development Amendment Acts of 1979, 1980, 1981, 1983 and 1985; and
— Laws on Cooperation and Development Second Amendment Act, 1979.

The bill is to be retroactive, with effect from April 23 this year.

Commentary Favors Security Action To End Violence

MB120624 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0545 GMT 12 May 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Two things must be apparent to all fair-minded people in South Africa today: the government's commitment to reform and the fact that the violence in the country simply has to be brought to an end. It is well documented that instability is inherent in the process of change. Any society adapting to the changing circumstances experiences increased tensions. In the South African situation, however, it is clear that this natural phenomenon is being grossly aggravated by the efforts of groups whose own goals are thwarted by peaceful change. Because of the link between change and instability it is an essential condition for successful reform that law and order must be maintained. This view has been stated repeatedly in our commentaries, and we do so again with no apologies.

The continuing situation in the country is now no more than a response to reform itself. Violence is feeding on violence, to the extent that even sympathisers with the extremists are recoiling from the horror of it all. The situation as it has now developed completely negates two hackneyed arguments from the left of the political spectrum — that apartheid is the rootcause of violence in South Africa and that the violence is a response to oppression. On the first charge, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told the British Parliament not so long ago: I do not accept that apartheid is the root cause of violence in South Africa, nor do most other people. How do you then explain the total and utter violence in Uganda? And if it were true that the violence is a response to oppression, it must follow that reforms that have taken place would result in an abatement of the violence. And the argument that reforms, particularly those announced most recently, are cosmetic and have no real substance can no longer be taken seriously.

It has been stated unequivocally that the government is committed to power-sharing between all the peoples of the country. The state president could hardly have put it more clearly than when he stated: All South Africans must be placed in a position where they can participate in government through their elected leaders.

What remains to be decided now is the mechanics, the structures, for bringing this about. The days are past, however, when the government would have simply announced how this would be effected. Instead, it has stated that the country's constitutional future will be decided by representatives of all its peoples. Patently, the violence and unrest is aimed at wrecking this process and ensuring that its objectives are not realized. There are identifiable groups in the country that have no interest in sharing power. Their goal is to seize power. And the fomenting of violence in order to try to render the country ungovernable is part of the softening-up process towards that end. An added dimension to the problem is that the continued violence from the leftist radicals is fueling the designs of those on the right who, for opposing reasons, are also against the evolution of a more just and equitable constitutional dispensation. Clearly, effective security action, backed by enabling measures, will now have to be taken in the interests of the vast majority of South Africans if this two-edged threat of total anarchy is to be avoided.

Heunis Says State Must Take 'Coercive Action'

MB091552 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1507 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] House of Assembly, May 9, SAPA — The state had to take certain "coercive action" in the interest of reform, the minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis, said today. If this did not succeed, communities who sought peace would not be able to negotiate frankly with each other, he said during the debate on his budget vote. Violence encouraged further violence and as such could not support reform alone. This was not to say that the state could not use force. "Let there be no illusion, the state must, in the present circumstances, use its power to take certain coercive action (dwangaksies) in the interest of reform and the continuation of reform. I want to emphasise that the security forces goal cannot be to take over all government actions but to ensure the conditions in which those actions can continue on social and political levels."

Mr Heunis said the only people who welcomed violence were those who wanted to destroy reform. It was not possible to condemn "Marxist revolutionaries" without at the same time condemning the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging, [Afrikaner Resistance Movement] he said. It is they who do not want negotiation and peaceful processes to succeed." Reform would fail if alternative systems came to being that recognised a different authority from the legal one. "Therefore the state's security component has a responsibility to visibly enforce the state's authority so that the reform process can proceed normally and that the system that is established in the process can function visibly."

"One-man, one-whip," Mr Ken Andrew (PFP [Progressive Federal Party] Gardens) said by way of interjection. Mr Heunis said all parties were agreed on the need for reform and the only question to be debated was how it should be furthered to allow everyone to take part. The reorganisation of his department reflected this commitment to reform and there was no room for an official who was not reform-oriented.

Replying to points raised during the debate, Mr Heunis said he wanted to repeat statements made before the 1983 constitutional referendum that the present constitution was not final but only a blueprint for a new structure. This would come about by way of evolution, he said. Mr Nic Olivier (PFP nominated) had said the NP [National Party] had created the election of a black majority government. However, Mr Heunis said, Mrs Helen Suzman (PFP Houghton) had said that this was the necessary result of her party's policy. "She didn't say that, "said Mr Brian Bamford (PFP Groote Schuur) in an interjection. Mr Heunis said that, no matter how the PFP's proposed federal system was drawn up, a white minority would not result in any of its commponents. Greater consensus among white political parties was a prerequisite for democratic change, Mr Heunis said.

14 Convenience Stores Closed Due to Strike

MB091228 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1215 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Johannesburg, May 9, SAPA — Pick'n'Pay had been "forced" to close 14 of its supermarkets and hypermarkets throughout the country due to "unlawful and unruly behaviour on the part of striking workers," the company said in a statement today. The closures, affecting 2,465 workers at three hypermarkets and 11 stores, was to "protect our customers," the statement said.

Pick'n'Pay is engaged in a pay dispute with the Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union of South Africa (CCAWUSA), which is claiming an across-the-board increase of R90 a month. Pick'n'Pay has offered R80 a month backdated to March 1 or a split increase of R60 a month from March with a further R30 in July. CCAWUSA has rejected the offer and refused to negotiate.

The statement said 4200 workers "slept-in" at 24 stores and five hypermarkets "peacefully" last night. "Management ensured that food was provided for these employees and unrestricted access was permitted to canteen and ablution facilities. All 38 stores and seven hypermarkets affected by the industrial action opened this morning for normal trading. Due to unlawful and unruly behaviour on the part of striking workers and in order to protect our customers, 11 stores and three hypermarkets have been forced to close," the statement said.

The closures affect the Durban hypermarket, the Bedworth hypermarket in Vanderbijpark in the Transvaal, and the Blomfontien hypermarket. Seven of the stores are in Natal, two in the [Orange] Free State and one in the northern Cape.

Durban Students Arrested

MB101151 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1100 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Support for striking Pick'n'Pay workers has landed about two dozen students in police custody. Carmel Rickard sends this report:

[Rickard] A number of students have been arrested by riot police after they held a demonstration supporting the striking Pick-'n'Pay workers. The students, mostly from Natal University in Durban and from the University of Durban-Westville, held their demonstration at the Musgrave shopping center on Durban's Berea this morning. While placard-holding striking workers continued to occupy the store, the students on the other side of the closed glass doors shared their support for what they called the workers' demand for a living wage. The lawyers acting for the students have been told by the police that they will be charged, but police have given no further details and the students are apparently all still being held.

Troops, Police Make Arrests in Oudtshoorn Township

MB091606 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1552 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Cape Town, May 9, SAPA — Police and troops moved into Bongolethu township near Oudtshoorn at 4am today and detained many people, according to a community worker. The worker, who asked not to be named, said troops helped police to search homes and arrest people. He said those detained were mainly young men. The township was sealed off after 15 Casspirs, Hippos, army jeeps, lorries, and motorcyclists moved in. A police helicopter was also used.

Col Eddie Snyman, police liaison officer for the South-Western Districts, said "a number of people" were detained during "a crime-prevention operation." Troops cordoned off the area while police entered, detaining a number of people for questioning, Col Snyman said. He said more details would be available when the operation ended.

Several people were arrested during a crime-prevention operation at Maraisplaas near Mossel Bay yesterday. Col Snyman said a "large number" of people were arrested yesterday for crimes ranging from burglary and stock theft to public violence, attempted murder and malicious damage to property. Two men were arrested for possessing ammunition without licence, a woman was held for possessing mandrax and dagga, [marijuana] and another woman for dealing illegally in liquor.

Police Raid Walmer, Arrest 35 'Suspects'

MB101013 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0950 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Port Elizabeth, May 10, SAPA — Police backed by units of the Defence Force made a pre-dawn raid on the Walmer black township yesterday and arrested 35 people, Lt Col Gerrie van Rooyen, the east Cape Police liaison officer, said today. He said all 35 detentions in terms of the criminal procedures act were related to unrest. "Police were looking for certain suspects," Col van Rooyen said. The raid "was not conducted from door-to-door."

Cape Town Police Turn Away Detainee Supporters

MB091904 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1834 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Cape Town, May 9, SAPA — A delegation of about 20 people who feared "that relatives and friends would be severely tortured and harrassed in detention under Section 29" were confronted by the security police when they tried to deliver a letter to the commissioner of police today. The letter condemned the way in which the detainees were detained and placed under Section 29. About 50 people had met at the Methodist Church hall in Buitenkant Street and decided to send a group of about 20 relatives and friends to the commissioner of police. On their way a police captain warned them to "disperse immediately" and that it was an illegal gathering. The group returned to the church hall while police waited outside until they left the church.

The family and friend of Mr Quentin Michaels, Mr Cecil Esau, Mr Mayo Maqatesha, Mr Anderson Ncivita, Mr Reed Macozona, Mr Joseph Gosani, Mr Neville van der Rheede and Mr hudson Ghila demanded "that we be afforded the opportunity to visit our respective family as a matter of urgency." They also wanted the commissioner of police to ensure, in writing , that he would release the detainees soon. The incident was confirmed by a police liaison officer for the western Cape, Lieutenant Attie Laubscher.

Vigilantes Destroy Homes of Crossroads Activists

MB100851 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0945 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Cape Town, May 9, SAPA — The shacks and homes of members of the former Old Crossroads committee, who fled the squatter camp this week fearing an outbreak of right-wing violence, were destroyed by "witdoeke" [white scarves] today — allegedly under police protection. This was claimed at a press conference in New Crossroads today, where nine former executive committee members all blamed Old Crossroads leader, Mr Johnson Nxobongwana and his supporters, who include the present Old Crossroads Executive Committee, 19 "headmen", their "cabinets" and a vigilante force, the "witdoeke", of inciting violence in the community. The nine former members are Mr Elliot Dyakopu, Mr Wilson Zakile, Mr Anton Qukumpu, Mr Don Nofemela, Mr Enoch Nqwenze, Mr Samuel Langa, Mr Erasmus Lugalo, Mr Johannes Bambi and Mr Albert Napahakete.

They alleged that when "witdoeke" were "collapsing" their shacks today and either removing or stealing and smashing their possessions, security forces — in a Casspir and in a helicopter that hovered overhead — stood by as "protection" for the vigilantes.

They also alleged that at a mass meeting on Sunday at Old Crossroads, a present Executive Committee member, Mr Sam Ndima, told his audience that "he had permission from the authorities" and would not be charged or apprehended by police for killing or attacking "comrades," or members of progressive and UDF [United Democratic Front]-affiliated organisations. Mr Ndima was also alleged to have said the "witdoeke" were in possession of "600 guns," which they would use for the killings.

A police liaison officer for the western Cape, Lieutenant Attie Laubscher, tonight rejected the allegations against the police "with the contempt they deserved".

ANC Member Released After 15 Years on Robben Island

MB091634 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1610 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Cape Town, May 9, SAPA — James April, 46, who served 15 years in jail for terrorism, was released from Robben Island today. A member of Umkhonto we Size [Spear of the Nation] — the military wing of the ANC — he was arrested in Durban in 1971.

Police Issue Unrest Situation Reports

7 PM, 9 May

MB091730 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1726 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Pretoria, May 9, SAPA — Follows the 7pm unrest report issued by SAP Public Relations Division in Pretoria.

"The following incidents of unrest were reported during the day:

"At Soweto (WWR) [Witwatersrand] minor damage was caused when a petrol-bomb was hurled at a library.
"At Tumahole near Parys, damage was caused to a policeman's home when it was petrol bombed.
"At Emjindini near Barberton, a delivery vehicle was destroyed by arsonists.
"At Tanga in the eastern Transvaal, a man was killed when he was set alight.
"At Langekoptrust, in the eastern Transvaal, a private home was damaged by arsonists.
"At a black residential area near Bloemfontein minor damage was caused to a councillor's home when burning tyres were placed against the wall.

"At Bongelethu and Bridgeton near Oudtshoorn incidents occurred where vehicles of the SAP and SADF were stoned. Tearsmoke, and at one stage, shotgun fire, were used to disperse the mobs. No injuries were reported.

"At Mohlakeng, near Randfontein, a private vehicle was destroyed by arsonists.

"At Alexandra the SAP used tearsmoke and shotgun fire to disperse a mob when a private vehicle was petrol-bombed.

"At Motherwell near Port Elizabeth a private lorry was extensively damaged when it was petrol-bombed.

"At Mankeng near Kroonstad, several incidents occurred where SAP vehicles were stoned. Tearsmoke and, at one stage, shotgun fire were used to disperse the attackers. A man was fatally wounded in the latter incident.

"A private home was damaged by a petrol bomb. The tyres of a development board vehicle were punctured. Municipal guards at councillor's residence used shotgun and revolver fire when the house was stoned.

"In another incident at Mankeng a man was wounded and arrested by municipal police when a councillor's home was stoned.

"On another occasion, municipal police used shotgun fire when their vehicle was stoned.

"After a funeral at Mankeng, police used tearsmoke to disperse a crowd that gathered illegally after it failed to comply with the request of the police to disperse.

"A private vehicle was also damaged by arsonists on another occasion."

10 May

MB100715 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0712 GMT
10 May 86

[Text] Pretoria, May 10, SAPA — Here is the overnight unrest report issued by the SAP's Public Relations Division in Pretoria:

At Pienaarstrust near Nelspruit, a delivery vehicle was destroyed by arsonists.

At Maokeng near Kroonstad, the SAP used tearsmoke to disperse a mob when they tried to set fire to a private vehicle. A policeman was injured when a mob stoned policemen. A man was injured and arrested and another arrested when the SAP used tear smoke to disperse a mob when they stoned their vehicle.

In another incident a vehicle of the Development Board was damaged by a petrol-bomb.

At Brent Park near Kroonstad (coloured residential area), a white man was injured when his vehicle was stoned.

At Soweto (Witwatersrand), a beerhall was slightly damaged when it was stoned.

In another incident a vehicle's tyres were damaged when they were stabbed with knives.

At Daveyton near Benoni, a bus was damaged by arsonists.

At Mamelodi near Pretoria, a private vehicle was damaged when it was stoned.

At Vosloosrus near Kempton Park, a delivery vehicle was destroyed by arsonists.

At KwaZakele near Port Elizabeth, unknown persons petrol bombed a private dwelling of a councillor and shot with an unknown calibre firearm at the house. SAP and municipal guards used shotgun and pistol fire to disperse the attackers. No injuries were reported.

During other incidents, a private dwelling as well as the dwelling of a policeman were petrol-bombed. A member of the Development Board used pistol fire to disperse a mob that gathered illegally.

At Zwide near Port Elizabeth, the municipal police used revolver fire to disperse a mob when the municipal offices were stoned.

At Ne Brighton near Port Elizabeth, a private dwelling was damaged by arsonists.

At Tantyi near Grahamstown the SAP dispersed a mob with shotgun fire when their vehicle was petrol bombed.

At Fingo also near Grahamstown, the SAP also used tearsmoke to disperse a mob when their vehicle was petrol bombed.

At Belmonth Road next to Fingo near Grahamstown, a white man quarrelled with three black men. During this incident he threw a brick at them, and they threw a petrol bomb and a brick at him. The white man was slightly injured. He used pistol fire at the men and they fled. No injuries were reported.

At Ragban Road near Grahamstown, a municipal guard arrested two men when municipal offices were stoned.

At the old residential area near Wolmaranstad the SAP dispersed a mob with shotgun fire when their vehicle was petrol bombed.

At Watville near Benoni, a private dwelling was damaged by arsonists.

7 PM, 10 May

MB110547 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1803 GMT
10 May 86

[Text] Pretoria, May 10, SAPA — Following is the unrest situation report for the period 8am to 7pm today issued by the SAP's Public Relations Division in Pretoria.

"The operation in Alexandra township as mentioned to SAPA this morning is still being carried out. The security forces, consisting of the SAP and the SADF, are totalling approximately 1600. The operation will continue until further notice. So far 16 arrests have been made, involving theft to the possession of and the dealing of dagga [marijuana]. Two stolen vehicles were also recovered. Only one incident in Alexandra occurred today at about 11 this morning when a private vehicle was destroyed by arsonists.

"At Umlazi, near Durban, two private dwellings were petrol-bombed, causing extensive damage to one of them.

"At Port Alfred's black residential area near Port Elizabeth a mob charged and entered the house of the mayor, stabbing him three times with a knife. He defended himself by firing a revolver at his attackers, fatally wounding a man. The mayor himself was slightly wounded. Later today a charred body of an unknown man was found in Port Alfred.

"In Batho, near Bloemfontein, a councillor used his revolver at intruders at his home, slightly injuring a man.

"At Zwelitsha, near Uitenhage, a charred body of a man was found.

"At Makwelela, near Robertson in the cape, a mob destroyed a private vehicle by setting it alight. The SAP used tearsmoke to disperse the mob. Two policemen were slightly injured during the incident. Two women and three men were arrested.

"At Soweto in the Witwatersrand a dwelling, a private vehicle,and a delivery vehicle were stoned. In another incident a private vehicle was destroyed by arsonists. A policeman used pistol fire when a mob gathered at his home. No injuries and arrests were reported.

"At Lingelihle near Cradock, vehicles of the SAP were stoned at two locations. The SAP dispersed the mob with tearsmoke.

"At Bekkersdal near Westonaria a private vehicle was destroyed by arsonists.

"At KwaZakele near Port Elizabeth a private home was petrol-bombed. In another incident unknown persons used rifle fire at a policeman's home. No one was injured and no damage was caused.

"At Fingo near Grahamstown the SAP used shotgun fire to disperse a mob when their vehicle was petrol-bombed. No injuries were reported."

7 PM, 11 May

MB120508 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1719 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Pretoria, May 11, SAPA — Following is the SAP 7pm unrest situation report:

"At New Town, near Patterson, in the eastern Cape, a beerhall was damaged by arsonists.

"At Zwide, near Port Elizabeth, a policeman's home was petrol-bombed, causing extensive damage.

"At Soweto, Transvaal, about about 60 black people stoned a Development Board vehicle yesterday at about 11.46pm. The Development Board members used a 9mm pistol to disperse their attackers, fatally wounding three youths (male). At about 10.55 this morning the SAP were present when the bodies were transported to a mortuary. A mob stoned the SAP and they had to use tearsmoke to disperse the bomb.

"In another incident, a private vehicle was stoned. In the same area an SAP Casspir collided with a PUTCO [Public Utility Transport Corporation] bus full of passengers. The passengers attacked the SAP and the SAP fled. The passengers of the bus then destroyed the Casspir by setting it alight.

"In the same area, the SAP used tearsmoke and shotgun fire to disperse a mob after their vehicle was petrol-bombed.

"At Chesterville, near Durban, the SAP used tearsmoke to disperse a mob which gathered illegally outside a police station.

"At Walmer, near Port Elizabeth, the SAP used shotgun fire to disperse a mob which stoned them. After the mob dispersed, the SAP found a hand-made rifle on the scene. In the same area a private vehicle was damaged when it was petrol-bombed.

"At New Brighton, near Port Elizabeth, SAP vehicles and the Development Board vehicles were stoned on spearate occasions. In one of these incidents the municipal police used shotgun fire to disperse their attackers. No injuries were reported."

12 May

MB120707 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0652 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Pretoria, May 12, SAPA — Following is the SAP 8am unrest situation report:

"At Kutsong, near Oberholzer, in the western Transvaal, clashes between the so-called comrades and another group occurred yesterday afternoon and early evening. One black man was seriously wounded when a shot was fired from amongst the fighting groups. Another man was fatally wounded when a black policeman fired shots at a group of blacks attacking his house with petrol-bombs. A number of squatter huts were set alight and destroyed and a policeman fired shots at a group armed with petrol-bombs. No-one was injured but one man in possession of a petrol-bomb was arrested. Police also found a black man with serious burn wounds and had him admitted to hospital. Another man is in hospital under guard after he was found with a shotgun wound in his foot in the same area.

"At Soweto, Witwatersrand, blacks set fire to a private vehicle, while in another incident they hurled petrol-bombs at a police vehicle. Shots were fired in the petrol-bomb incident, but no injuries were reported.

"Isolated incidents of violence also occurred in Claremont, near Durban, Natal, where a private house was extensively damaged by arsonists using petrol-bombs.

"At Worcester, western Cape, coloureds using petrol-bombs set fire to a coloured man's house. One of the residents sustained burn wounds.

"At Uitenhage, eastern Cape, police fired shots to disperse a stone-throwing group on the national road. A black youth was slightly wounded and arrested.

"In the Dalmeida coloured township, police fired birdshot to disperse a stone-throwing group. No injuries were reported."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

[Editorial Report]

Johannesburg Petrol Bombing

In a front-page report on three petrol bombings in Johannesburg, Johannesburg *THE CITIZEN* in English on 9 May cites the rector of the Bramley Anglican Church, one of the targets of the bombs, as saying that "he thought the church, which is part of the Johannesburg Diocese of which the Right Rev Desmond Tutu is Bishop, was singled out along with the house of Mr Martin van der Ploeg, founder of the Civil Convergence organisation, because they have both been involved in providing relief in the form of blankets, food and accommodation to those Alexandra residents that have had their homes burned down or have been threatened by other Blacks."

Pick'n'Pay Strike

An article on page 2 discussing the strike at Pick'n'Pay by the Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union [CCAWUSA] quotes company chairman Raymond Ackerman as saying he was not quoting the CCAWUSA leader when he noted that a unionist had told him they wanted to make the country ungovernable but rather a unionist from another union who had made the remark 18 months ago. Still, he said that it was true that his company paid higher wages than competitors and that even after further offers the union leaders refused to negotiate. " 'I can only construe that they are gunning for us for other reasons,' said Mr Ackerman. 'That's not the way to get South Africa right. If the unions are going to squeeze the people fighting for a better South Africa, then they're going to destroy South Africa, and I'm not prepared to let them do that. I'm not prepared to let them destroy 19 years of staff development, of working for fair payment policies, employee housing, education and job advancement.' "

CITIZEN on Store Bombing

THE CITIZEN's editorial on page 6 says that the Benmore Garden explosion should be a reminder to those with "an easy going attitude" towards the ANC organization that it is still "a terroristic one — and that it doesn't care who it hurts or injures." A limpet mine was set off in a crowded shopping center and it was a miracle no one was hurt. If someone had been, the ANC would have regarded him as a victim in the "crossfire" with the government. That it occurred at a Pick'n'Paystore during a strike was interesting. Raymond Ackerman, chairman of Pick'n'Pay, has been one of the businessmen most vociferous in asking for reform yet his firm was being singled out for attack and was being used as a "political football." Perhaps Mr Ackerman will learn "that being a nice guy, or having a good track record in industrial matters, or taking the lead in demands for change, will not protect him from the machinations of the radicals."

Freedom of Association

Brian Stuart reports from Cape Town on page 10 that "with the lifting of influx control, South African Blacks will obtain rights to be accommodated as guests in White, Coloured and Indian group areas — implying a large measure of freedom of association." In the past, blacks were subject to pass raids when visiting friends in other areas. With the pass laws gone blacks are free to use the exemption in the Group Areas Act, Section 26, "since South Afrian citizens can no longer by their mere presence be 'illegally' in an area." This was confirmed to the paper by senior officials of various departments involved in reviewing the legislation to be repealed by the new act. According to the Group Areas Act, visitors may remain in another group's area as a guest for up to 90 days. The opening of Central Business Districts gives blacks other rights. Black businessmen can now buy land and conduct business in any open district in the country. Furthermore, "in terms of the lifting of influx control laws, a Black man is able to seek work whereever he can find it."

Reform Costing Support

Another article by Brian Stuart on page 11 says that "reform is losing the National Party [NP] support, but it is crucial to South Africa's future to meet the aspirations of more than 10 million Blacks who live and work in the country, according to the NP." According to the party publication *THE NATIONALIST*, the party was "now losing support because of its programme of constitutional, political and socio-economic reform." The paper says that if the party had extended its power base, the conservative parties would have no support but doing so would have been "extremely irresponsible. It would in the long term lead to disaster to go ahead, in a fast changing world, with policy directions which are no longer practicable, simply in the interests of popularity." Even with the independent black states, there were still 10 million blacks in South Africa with no political rights and there was no moral justification for expecting them to live for an indeterminate period without rights simply because they were black. The conservative parties had no solution to this problem.

Catholic Stand Criticized

"Leading Catholics in the Verwoerdburg parish of Lyttelton have hammered their bishops — in the presence of Pretoria's Archbishop George Daniel — for their continued backing for economic pressure on South Africa," *THE CITIZEN* reports on page 12. Severe criticism of the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference was expressed at a meeting Monday night in the parish. The meeting discussed the "watered down" decision of the conference, which Catholics said indicated the bishops were "backing down" in the face of opposition to the "liberation theology."

CITIZEN on Reform Conflict

The 8 May edition of Johannesburg *THE CITIZEN* in English carries an editorial on page 6 which cites conflicting opinions from the left and right concerning the government's policy but says that "reform is irreversible." The rightwing parties fear the end of white rule but the policy is aimed at power-sharing, not black domination. Although it may be difficult to control the situation when the blacks sense "liberation," "it would be impossible to put out the fires of insurrection if an attempt were made to put back the lid, suppress Black aspirations by force, and deny Blacks the opportunity to share in the government of the country." The paper says it is strange that the threat of white extremism is as great as of black extremism and strange that people cannot understand that "there can be no domination by any section over another, but only chaos and conflict if it is attempted."

UWUSA 'Overwhelmed' by Membership Requests

"The newly formed United Workers Union of South Africa [UWUSA] says it has been so overwhelmed with applications for membership that the few offices it has established cannot cope," the paper reports on page 8. At a press conference in Johannesburg, it listed the companies in which it had gotten majority support; most are in Natal. The union's general secretary said he could not disclose the names of the unions which had discussed affiliating with UWUSA. On strikes and stayaways, he said they would be used as " 'the last resort. There is a tendency among certain leaders to think for the people without consulting them. We will negotiate first and if negotiations fail, we will refer the matters to the workers who can take a ballot. We do not believe in taking decisions without a mandate from the community.' " He said that many people had told them their unions were dragging them into " 'ideologies foreign to them.' "

Mandela's Moderation

Cape Town *CAPE TIMES* in English on 7 May carries an editorial on page 8 saying that Nelson Mandela's positive attitude toward negotiation is "very encouraging." Few black leaders have as high a standing and he could help restore peace to the townships. Although there has been optimism of possible negotiations with the ANC as a result of the Commonwealth Group, "the whole style of Nationalist politics militates against negotiation with the ANC." It makes little sense to release Mandela unless the ANC is unbanned and negotiations begin but it seems improbable that P.W. Botha is ready to take such a step. "It seems more probable that he will play for time and fend off intensified Western sanctions."

Opening Business Districts

In a second editorial on the same page, the paper welcomes the opening of four Peninsula business districts to all races and says this "will help to untie the straitjacket in which businessmen of colour have hitherto been restricted" in the areas. It may also stimulate the economy. "But why this piecemeal method of abolishing racial discrimination in the commercial sector? Why could not all business areas in the city and Peninsula be declared open to all races, instead of dispensing bits at a time?" The Group Areas Act was amended 2 years ago to permit this reform. "It is a pity that this long-approved reform must be spoilt by both the tardiness of its implementation and its fragmentary natuee."

One Parliament Needed

In his "Politics Midweek" column on the same page, Michael Accot notes the speeches made by Indian and coloured ministers in the white House of Assembly and says "many suspect that it is only temporary, that eventually the divisions must come down and we will have one Parliament with one debating chamber where decisions are taken jointly by all, including black representatives." The president has not committed himself to one parliament, however. The government will probably keep making offers that get rejected until it sees it must offer genuine power sharing. But "by that time, it might find it has no credible takers because black demands harden with every evasion or delay of decision that should have been taken years ago."

No Scramble in Cape

CAPE TIMES Property Editor Neill Hurford reports on page 9 that "there will be no frantic rush by black business people to buy buildings in the Peninsula's four business districts proclaimed 'open' by the minister of constitutional development and planning," according to major commercial property brokers and rental agents who said there were no deals pending for sale of property to blacks in the four areas. Brokers said there was already black investment in these areas through nominees. They also said there were few properties for sale and certainly no bargains. One broker said that this move might stimulate the market but "there will be no scramble. A lot of the interest will be from professional people looking for office accommodation in the city." There would also be an upsurge of interests from traders looking for rented commercial space, "particularly in what was termed the informal sector."

Delight Over Opening

A related story on the same page reports that "black businessmen yesterday welcomed the opening of four business districts in the Peninsula and said they were 'delighted' that the areas had been opened to all races." According to one black business group, the chnage proved that government was moving away from " 'a strict business policy based on colour.' " According to the chairman of the group, " 'if only the iniquitous Group Areas Act can now be scrapped, as I consider the time ripe for such an undertaking, we shall all be moving towards a healthy and harmonious South Africa, which I hope is the aspiration of all constructive and peace-loving South Africans.' "

Barclays Bank on Loans

Johannesburg *BUSINESS DAY* in English on 9 May reports on its front page that Barclays Bank chairman Timothy Bevan has said that the bank would not resume lending to South Africa even if the debt moratorium had ended. Asked if the abolition of the pass laws would change Barclays policy, he said: " 'Progress has not been made.' "

Sullivan Code Change

In a report from Washington, Simon Barber quotes Rev Leon Sullivan as saying that U.S. companies in South Africa must adopt " 'a stringent course of corporate civil disobedience to challenge actively all apartheid laws.' " Companies must also immediately increase the number of blacks in senior management positions " 'to assure that, as quickly as possible, there will be appropriate representation of blacks in the management groups of each company at all levels.' " Sullivan said: " 'I am asking companies to use their legal and financial resources to the fullest extent possible...to assist blacks in the equal use of all private and public amenities, such as parks, beaches, hospitals, theatres, public transport, schools and housing,; " which goes well beyond the original Sullivan principles.

Freedom to Move

In a page 6 editorial, *BUSINESS DAY* says the government's decision to start buying large tracts of land to house people moving toward the cities is "a logical and sensible one." There is no doubt that rural people are coming to the city "in hordes" and if land is not set aside for them, they will set up homes anywhere. There will be some objections from whites but the truth is that most will not be affected. "The Nationalists have taken half a step towards reality by recognising that mass housing for the poor must be provided, and that it can be; now it should drop the other shoe and recognise that freedom of movement must be permitted and that it can be. We just don't need the Group Areas Act."

Debt Repayment Talks

An article on the same page by Gerald Prosalend discusses the maneuvering that went with reaching agreement on the debt repayment, and says that the success of such an agreement "is now firmly linked to political reform. Although they have made no specific political demands, foreign bankers turned watchdog are closely monitoring government's reform initiative." Most bankers agree the agreement was a remarkable achievement, with South Africa allowed to salvage a measure of respectability. However, "it is clear that foreign banks have SA over a barrel and are increasingly becoming the power brokers in this country's future economic health. Which means SA simply has to normalise its links with the outside world."

Unemployment Crisis

BUSINESS DAY reports on page 7 that "increasing unemployment has caused desperation among hundreds of able-bodied blacks — particularly those who moved from the homelands to cities hoping to find work." The unemployment lines get longer every day. Some say they have been out of work for more than 2 years and their hopes of finding jobs are dwindling every day. Battles with bureaucracy also makes the situation worse. Many of the unemployed live precariously in the city hoping for work, seeking refuge in alley, parks and the open veld.

Economic Stimulation

John Tilston, economics editor, writes on the same page that "a majority of economists believe the economy now needs some fiscal stimulation to regain its infant momentum of late last year." Although the failure of the economy to improve has been attributed to a general lack of confidence, one economist says "there is also an inability on the part of the private sector to do anything. Resources are stretched to the limit, and lower interest rates alone will not make much difference." The government says the private sector has been led to water but is not drinking; the private sector says the government has yet to fill the trough. If something is not done, according to the economist, the country might slide into "a vicious circle of economic and political disasters."

Sanctions on South Africa

Neil Lurssen reports from Washington for Johannesburg *THE STAR* in English on page 1 of its 9 May edition that "the leaders of the world's top seven democracies believe economics sanctions will not solve South Africa's problems," according to White House spokesman Ed Djerejian. He said that there had been basic agreement on South Africa and that sanctions were not looked upon as an effective approach.

Freeing South Africa

"Christ will liberate South Africa, even if he uses the ANC or the Russians to do it," according to Netherlands Reform Minister Nico Smith, the paper reports on page 4. He told a memorial service in Pretoria for th people who died in Winterveld on 26 March that "the Church had failed to stop apartheid. 'We have watched it unfolding like a horror movie. People are being treated like sheep and are being slaughtered.' "

COSATU Divided

Sheryl Raine reports on the same page that "radicals were ahead of the rank and file membership of the Congress of SA Trade Unions (COSATU) and insufficient attention was being paid to seeking mandates from embers for executive action," according to a labor expert at Cape Town's Graduate School of Business. "She said the more pragmatic leadership within COSATU realised the confrontation politics being espoused by some COSATU officials posed a real danger for the union movement unless those responsible knew how and when to beat a strategic retreat." She said unions could be classified as reformist or radical in intent, with radicals wanting to use the unions to overthrow the capitalist system. However, their roles as independent bargaining agents would likely be the first casualty of any new non-capital regime.

Banker Quizzed

The paper's bureau in London reports that Lord Barber, chairman of the Standard Chartered Bank has been quizzed by the "End Loans to South Africa" pressure group who wanted to know why Standard was not following Barclays in cutting off loans to the country. He said that the only way to bring peace to South Africa was to dismantle apartheid but "how this was to be achieved was another question." He also said that "his bank's loans to South Africa were not a moral issue but a matter of judgment."

Whipping Pupils

THE STAR's editorial on page 10 says that whatever the provocation at Arcadia high school in Cape Town, the "sjambok [whip] injuries inflicted by the police there this week suggest that a totally unacceptable level of force was used by the security forces to quell the demonstration." "It is essential the police get past this oft-repeated position of emerging as the instigators of grievances. Until they modify their methods of handling unrest — and agree to open and impartial inquiries when the actions are questioned — they will appear blameworthy in the eyes of the world regardless of the circumstances. The minister must assert his authority to ensure the police stop landing the country in this intolerable position."

Emigration Issue

THE STAR's second editorial on page 10 notes the net loss of people in January and the developing trend toward losing people, mostly white and mostly well qualified. "Should the tendency continue, the loss would be very serious indeed." Many bright young people in business are seeking to emigrate. "Can the country afford it? Whatever society emerges in the difficult days to come, South Africa is going to need all the skills it can muster. That is yet another reason why political delay can be so damaging to us all."

Different Worlds

Frederick van Zyl Slabbert's "My View" column on the same page notes that in the past few weeks the author has talked to young blacks and then to young whites about the future of the country. "It was like walking around in two different worlds." Although the white world has all the solid institutions, the young whites were "beset with anxiety and experiencing a severe role crisis" while the young blacks, living in disorder, were "confident, self-assured, and excited about the future." Afrikaaner youths are worried about how they can fit themselves into a black future and most are so depoliticised that they do not understand what is happening around them. Young blacks, on the other hand, are cool and confident, but some also want to talk. "If only they can do so, perhaps ones confidence about the future will no longer be a source of anxiety for the other."

Heunis: 'Minister of Everything'

David Braun reports from Cape Town on page 11 that Minister of Constitutional Development Chris Heunis and his department have moved into the center of the parliamentary stage. Some people in jest say that Mr Heunis "has assumed so much authority and so many new duties in this portfolio that he should be more aptly called Minister of Everything." More seriously, others say that his powers are so extensive that "it would make for a more efficient administration if he were made Prime Minister to President P.W. Botha's executive State President," thus alleviating Botha of some of the crushing duties of the president. Heunis heads a special cabinet committee which has been for some years "secretly investigating how black people can be brought into the country's political processes." By last month, the committee had received representations from 135 people and groups. He is also in charge of local governemnt plans for the future. However, one aspect of his philosophy — the Group Areas Act — "is expected to come under heavy fire again."

Floating Rand

An article by Dr Roger Gidlow on page 12 discusses the implications of the Tokyo summit decisions to more actively intervene to produce more stable, but still floating, exchange rates. With these currencies still floating, there is no reason "for arguing that South Africa's policy of managed rand floating will change." If the fluctuations are less, presumably there will be less intense pressure on the rand, other things being equal, and therefore the leads and lags problems will be less, as leading and lagging "thrives in conditions where predictable movements are anticipated in the value of the rand against other currencies." The floating rand "does provide an important element of uncertainty about future movements of the rand." However, it is unlikely that the Reserve Bank will increase its interventions as it has already been involved in such action far more so than the United States has.

Death of Union Leader

The death of William Olifant, chairman of the South African Allied Workers's Union's Workers' Committee at Noordfed in Lichtenburg, was described by the union as a " 'deliberate campaign to intimidate an organisation that caters for workers' interests,' " according to a page 2 story in Johannesburg *SOWETAN* in English on 9 May. Mr Olifant and the vice chairman of the committee were allegedly taken from work to the police station and were subsequently kidnapped and assaulted. Police later asked Mrs Olifant to identify a body, which was her husband. The union said that " 'what emerged was that he was brutally assaulted and died as a result of this asault or was killed after being assaulted.' " However, it said that the workers would " 'not be intimidated by faceless agents who carry out their evil deeds in the corridors of darkness.' " It also warned employers against assisting in such deeds.

Doctor's Release Demanded

A spokesman for the South African medical discussion group yesterday called on the governemnt to either charge or release Dr Bafana Zwane, a medical practitioner in Bophuthatswana. He was deported in January and subsequently detained under the Internal Security Act, the paper also reports on page 2. An organization spokesman said that " 'we abhor the detention witout trial laws in South Africa. Dr Zwane, who has now been declared persona non grata in a place where he stayed and practised, should either be charged or released.' " His family is worried about his physical and mental condition.

SOWETAN on EPG

The *SOWETAN* carries on page 4 an editorial discussing the Eminent Persons Group which has worked quietly with a low profile but seems "to have tacked onto some kind of deal that would involve the very core to the sharing of power in South Africa." The release of Nelson Mandela is part of the deal, but it should be accompanied by the unbanning of the ANC and Pan-Africanist Congress and the release of other political prisoners. "The ideal scenario following that would be for the Government to talk with these people and talk with them about the sharing of power." The government made a mistake by setting conditions for Mr Mandela's release which was reinforced when the state president asked the ANC to renounce violence. "If Mr Mandela is released and the ANC unbanned, it should follow that the gates towards further violence have been slammed shut. The violence was caused by the banning of these organizations and the jailing of its leaders. It seems simple enough to us, though we must admit others might not be so optimistic."

Cop in Command of Funeral "The eastern Cape's most senior policeman, Brigadier Ernest Schnetler, has undertaken to personally assume command of police monitoring a funeral in Zwide, Port Elizabeth, tomorrow and to ensure that police keep a 'low profile' during the proceedings." the paper reports on page 8. This was reported by United Democratic Front regional Vice President Henry Fazzie after he led a delegation meeting with Schnetler. He also told the delegation that several policemen who had been found to have "acted beyond their lawful duties while monitoring the gatherings in the twonships had been transferred to other police units."

Detentions Double

"Detentions under security legislation rose to 377 last month, well over double the 161 recorded at this time last year," the paper reports on page 13. The figure was supppled by the Detainees Parents Support Committee. The committee said that there were 90 known detentions in April, which brought the figure to 377, but says that the actual figure is probably much higher, around 1,000. "This large discrepancy is due in the main to the extensive use of Section 50 on members of the communities whose names reach the public with great difficulty."

ANC on Negotiation

Johannesburg *CITY PRESS* in English on 11 May reports on its front page that the ANC sees no role for the Eminent Persons Groups in negotiations between itself and the government. According to an ANC source, this would be a " 'distortion of the fundamental reality of South Africa.' " The ANC regards the situation in South Africa as one of " 'internal colonialism' " and has made clear that in any negotiations, it wants a "two-sided table," with itself and other elements of the " 'democratic movement' " on one side and the government and its allies on the other, with no one in between. "This ANC source said the outlawed movement believed the current 'unity in action' being developed between the ANC and legal organizations would have to be carried through to any negotiations. He ruled out the ANC's acceptance of any round-table negotiations in whch a whole range of small delegations sat bickering amongst themselves."

Activist Still Alive

In another page 1 report, Mono Badela writes that the family of Port Elizabeth Community leader Qaqawuli Godolozi believe he is still alive, as are his two lieutenants, all of whom have not been seen for a year. They believe he is being held at the Alexandra police station, 90 kilometers away, and have petitioned the Port Elizabeth Supreme Court to direct Law and Order Minister Louis le Grange to release the men.

CITY PRESS: 'Countdown' Started

On page 2, the paper carries a "comment" saying that "from all available evidence, the countdown has started. There is very little doubt that what we have been saying to this Government is slowly sinking in, and they are beginning to accept the realities of the real South African situation." The days of white superiority are over and "unilateral decision-making has at last been exposed as the biggest factor contributing to the continuing spiral of violence that has left deep and sometimes unhealable scars on the soul of this nation." As the ANC is the "largest custodian of the majority of our people's aspirations," it cannot be excluded from negotiations and the government seems to slowly be realizing this. P.W. Botha must now rise to the occassion. "For him the choice is spelt out loudly and clearly in historical terms: Chaos or peace — it is SA's choice."

Detainees Increase

According to the Repression Monitoring Group, "the number of South African detainees has increased by almost 500 percent — but the number who've been taken to court is even lower than before," the *CITY PRESS* reports on page 2. According to the group 2,387 people were held under the Internal Security Act in 1985 compared to 505 in 1984, however only 135 of these people (6 percent) were charged compared to 179 (35 percent) in 1984. The group said that the government would like the public to believe the detainees were engaged in illegal activity. However, " 'the fact that only 1 percent of the people detained in 1985 were convicted proves unequivocally that no such association exists. The primary aim of detentions is to gather information through the use of various forms of duress, to intimidate and harass activists and to hamper organisations through the removal of activists.' "

Activist's Death

"Sebokeng's Johannes Radebe is dead — only months after being acquitted on charges of high treason in the Pretoria Supreme Court," the paper reports on page 4. He was found dead in a field this week with several stab wounds on his body. A Vaal Civic Association spokesman said: " 'It is quite clear that his killing was not an ordinary criminal act.' " A post mortem is to be conducted.

Mohlakeng Struggle Continues

Another page 4 report says that "Mohlakeng's political war is still raging. Crucial talks to end the feud between members of AZAPO [Azanian People's Organization] and the UDF [United Democratic Front] had to be cancelled at the weekend." Both groups charge the other did not show up for the talks. Then a church where the AZAPO delegation was staying was petrol bombed. Issues to be discussed at the talks, aimed at solving differences between the two organizations,include the lawlessness in the area, the education crisis, and the formation of a Parents' Crisis Committee.

Vaal Pamphlets

The Vaal Civic Association [VCA] and Vaal Parents' Crisis Committee [VPCC] have criticized a " 'faceless organization' " — the Vaal Residents's Committee — for distributing pamphlets advising residents to " 'think of their stomachs' " and fight future stayaways and May Day, the paper reports on page 5. The pamphlets said these events were planned by people who wanted to earn money for doing nothing. A VCA spokesman said his organization was disturbed by such " 'narrow-minded suggestions.' " A VPCC spokesman said that such propaganda would have little effect as " 'boycotts will continue as long as black people in this country are oppressed.' "

Reagan's Double Standard

"Percy's Itch" column by Percy Qoboza on the same page says that while the Tokyo summit condemned terrorism, UNITA blew up a hotel in Huambo, Angola, killing 17, using U.S. weapons, a "cowardly attack on a facility used by civilians, many of them foreigners." By arming UNITA the U.S. has lost credibility as an honest broker, and Reagan has shown his "scorn for the power of diplomacy." "He is a warmonger who has been going around the globe sponsoring cruel wars in his support for totalitarian rightwing governments. He has shown himself to be the most dangerous threat to international peace."

BEELD on 'Wise Men'

On page 8, Johannesburg *BEELD* in Afrikaans on 9 May in an editorial says there is a serious danger that the handful of South African leaders who are still prepared to underwrite a democratic system are moving further away from each other. The reason for this should be sought in the increasing tendency to negotiate with each other through the media. It would appear that Chief Buthelezi is losing credibility because he is trying to negotiate with President Botha as well as with his radical political opponents, all at the same time. This leads him to make statements at times which are unacceptable to one or the other. For the whites of Natal he has to sound moderate, while for the sake of his radical opponents he has to shake off the moderate image. Mr Enos Mabuza of Kangwane, the paper says, is falling into the same trap. He is trying to become involved in dialogue with both the governemnt and the ANC, and unfortunately his public statements make it seem he is playing the one off against the other. "There is a clear need for a mechanism which enables leaders to talk with one another without making it appear politically suspect. The special cabinet committee is too closely linked to the government. What about a local, independent gorup of 'wise men' who can play the role of mediator?"

Port Elizabeth Beaches

The Johannesburg *DIE VADERLAND* in Afrikaans on 9 May reports on page 4 that the controversy in Port Elizabeth over the opening of its beaches to all races could cost the city's rate payers 10,000 rands if the city council decides to hold a referendum on the issue. The report says a meeting has been called for 20 May at which the public will discuss the council's recommendation to the administrator of the Cape that all beaches be opened. The meeting was called after petitions were presented by a city council member and the local branch of the Herstigte Nationale Party [Reformed National Party].

DIE VADERLAND on 'Silver Lining'

DIE VADERLAND's editorial on page 12 says despite the problems of black violence and threats of economic isolation, there are signs of a silver lining behind the dark cloud. "To speak of a breakthrough is perhaps not justified but nevertheless there are signs that the changes being brought about by the government are being noticed abroad." It points to the fact that the French Government has decided to send back its ambassador to South Africa as one of these signs. It also notes the postponement of a planned international conference on apartheid which was to have been held in London. Then, too, it says, there are indications that the disinvestment campaign in America no longer seems to be so intense. And it points to a seemingly more positive attitude among international bankers. "As noted these are not breakthroughs, and it would be wrong to wax lyrical. But it all points to progress, something which at one time seemed impossible. Even a journey around the world begins with the first step."

Aid for Unemployed

Johannesburg *BEELD* in Afrikaans on 8 May reports on page 2 that thousands of people who are unemployed due to the poor economic climate have already been assisted this year under the government's emergency scheme for the unemployed, which was undertaken by the Department of Health and Welfare. The report says over 380,000 rands were spent in January under the scheme, more than 304,000 in February, 329,000 in March, and 362,000 in April. The report adds that in December, too, about 1 million rands were given to welfare organizations for people affected by the loss of jobs. "It is the policy of the department to prevent health and social problems due to poverty. The emergency scheme was started in September of last year to provide temporary assistance to breadwinners who were dismissed due to the weak economy."

Starving Children

On the same theme, the paper reports on page 6 that welfare organizations have indicated that with the coming winter, the number of starving children will increase. According to Mrs Rika Mellet of the Dutch Reformed Church social services in the southern Transvaal, her organization has had to provide food for 30 percent more people in the past 3 months than during the previous 3 months. In southern Transvaal, the organization has used 35,000 rands, provided by the government to provide food for 1,006 children under the ages of 10 years, and 2,008 people over 10 years. R.F. West, of the Jimmy O'Connor welfare service, told the newspaper: "'Hungry children also have hungry family members. This is why, last month, we asked school headmasters to provide us with the names of families who will need food parcels.'"

BEELD on Botha-Thatcher Initiative

In an editorial on page 8, the newspaper says the questions with which President P.W. Botha and Mrs Margaret Thatcher confronted the leaders at the economic summit in Tokyo are troublesome, but in time they will have to be addressed, otherwise the outside world cannot speak of constructive engagement. President Botha, it points out, sent a letter to the summit asking that the reforms in the republic be recognized. "Suddenly these leaders cannot continue playing political games. They will have to give credit where it is due, if they want to retain their credibility. This would give the lie to the propaganda of the ANC and other hostile forces overseas that oppression is increasing and that the government does not want change. The fact of the matter is: There have been remarkable changes in attitudes and legislation." Mrs Thatcher highlighted the problem of the security of the whites in the midst of racial conflict, asking the leaders to express their concern. While the proposal was not accepted, the world has been made aware of the dilemma of minorities. "Implied in the Thatcher request, however, is the realisation that the ANC, in its striving towards a unitary state dictatorship, will not protect minority rights." If the Botha-Thatcher initiative causes people somewhere to think again, that would be welcome progress.

BEELD Warns Kaunda

In another editorial on the same page, the paper says Dr Jonas Savimbi this week underlined the role of Zambia's President Kaunda as terror broker in southern Africa. South Africa, it says, has for long had to live with the frustration of Dr. Kaunda allowing the ANC to establish its headquarters in Lusaka, a comfortable and convenient base from which to plan and execute its terrorist attacks against this country. There are many factors, political and international, which have made it difficult for this country to take military action against Zambia, and Dr Kaunda up to now has been able to hide behind these factors. "But Dr Kaunda may now learn the hard way that bush fighters like UNITA are not restricted like formal governments. It will be much easier for UNITA than, for instance,South Africa to pay Dr. Kaunda in kind for providing the platform for destabilising forces. Dr Kaunda's flirtation with the Cubans could prove to be the last straw."

Freehold Plan

"Details of freehold rights for urban blacks — promised by President Botha — could be announced next week," Winnie Graham, property editor, writes on the front page of Johannesburg *THE STAR* in English. "There is, however, no news yet of where the Government is to buy land for black township development. A report tabled in Parliament this week says a project to upgrade 120 black towns, involving 15,000 stands and 1.2 million people, has already been started by the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning."

Schools Policy

An article on page 2 quotes white Education Minister Piet Claus as saying "the Government is sticking to the policy of exclusive white government schools despite predictions by Indian Own Affairs Minister Amichand Rajbansi that State schools could be intergrated on a selected basis." He said the government's policy had not changed.

Witbank Homes Attacked

"Four Witbank activists' homes are reported to have been petrol-bombed in the early hours of Thursday morning," according to another page 2 report. The attacks were all on the homes of members of the United Democratic Front [UDF]-affiliated Witbank Youth Congress and the Witbank Students' Congress. The spokesman said no one was injured.

Emigration Increasing

Also on page 2 the paper reports that "more South Africans are leaving the country as the economic squeeze and township violence continue. Latest statistics show the 'brain drain' has not abated and emigration has risen by 33.3 percent during 1985." A U.S. Embassy spokesman said about 80 families a month were leaving for the U.S. The Canadian embassy also reported a sharp increase in the number leaving. While emigration increased 33.3 percent, immigration dropped by 40 percent.

Bridging the Gap

David Braun's "political commentary" on page 8 cites Helen Suzman's remarks this week concerning Nelson Mandela's attitude towards negotiations. He says the problem is now one of "synchronisation. A formula has to be found in which the Government can unban the ANC and release political prisoners at the exact moment that they renounce violence and agree to peaceful negotiation." Many people in the government now admit the reform program will falter without genuine black leaders to negotiate with and the talks will not get off the ground without Mandela and the ANC. "There is the question of saving face, a very important factor in African (including Afrikaner) politics. Many whites would recoil at the prospect of releasing Mandela, let alone negotiating and sharing power with him. Any such move would erode the National Party's support, and that makes quite a few cabinet ministers nervous. Some ministers in any case are opposed to the idea so that such a move could rock the government dangerously." However, if viable negotiations do not begun, the country will continue to degenerate.

Unrest Deaths

Moira Levy reports from Cape Town on page 1 of Johannesburg *THE WEEKLY MAIL* in English on 9-15 May that "more than 50 percent of people shot by police in Cape Town last year were wounded in the back, according to a University of Cape Town Medical research report." This was one of two reports dealing with police behavior in the unrest. in one, a member of the UCT's Department of Forensic Medicine found that more than 50 percent were shot in the back and another 11.6 percent were shot in the side, "suggesting they had turned to run as police opened fire." The average age of victims was 25.2 years and 12.2 percent were under 15. The youngest was 7. The other report was done by the SACLA clinic in Crossroads and showed that about 500 people shot by security forces between February and November 1985 had been treated.

UWUSA Seeks Aid

Another front page report, by Phillip van Niekerk, says that the Inkatha-based United Workers' Union of South Africa (Uwusa) "is seeking large-scale assistance from overseas." One of the sources it has applied to is the U.S. AFL-CIO, and its African arm, the controversial African American Labour Centre. On 10 April the UWUSA secretary general led a delegation to Washington to seek aid from the group, although no firm offer of aid emerged from the meeting.

Objector on Detention

Mike Loewe reports from Port Elizabeth on page 2 that in an interview, conscientious objector Philip Wilkinson said that he had been received in a friendly manner during his time in the detention barracks. Internees and military policemen had come to talk with him and were not hostile. When one said "just wait until you get into the townships," he replied that he had been there many times, which "really floored" his listeners. They gave him a friendly send off when he was released.

Port Elizabeth Boycott

THE WEEKLY MAIL reports on page 2 that "a threatened boycott of white stores by the city's coloured and Indian communities moves a large section of Port Elizabeth's white commercial sector closer to extinction." Blacks have been boycotting the businesses for a month and already "to let" signs have sprung up in empty stores. "An extension of the boycott to coloured and Indian areas is sure to sever a lifeline for many white traders, who had been forced to rely on coloured spending power to maintain some turnover." A consumer boycott spokesman said the coloreds were ready to support the boycotts because the Ford pull-out and General Motors retrenchment had caused them not to trust the "white-dominated motor industry;" the concomitant rapid rise in colored unemployment; disappointment with the Labour Party's failure to reduce rents and bus fares; "heavy-handed" Labour Party handling of education issues; and heightened political activity in African areas.

Catholic Dilemma

On page 3, the paper cites Catholic Archbishop Denis Hurley as saying the "the Catholic bishops' controversial statement on economic pressure against apartheid contains contradictions which reflect the dilemma of conference members." The bishops are quite aware of the suffering caused by hunger, which might be increased with outside pressure. Also there is the dilemma of whether they actually want sanctions even though they call for them. The bishops tried to get around this by saying that "any form of economic pressure was welcomed as long as it did not destroy the fabric of the economy or significantly increase unemployment." However, they said that if there was no " 'significant change' they would call for the level of economic pressure to be stepped up."

Buti's Fortunes Slipping

Shaun Johnson reports on the same page that "Sam Buti's political fortunes now seem to be in a headlong slide in Alexandra." The Alexandra Action Committee (AAC) has strongly denied reports that township residents are prepared to accept Buti back as a member of their community resistance organisations, and it accuses him of using his meeting with Nelson Mandela to " 'pretend that he has been accepted by the national liberation movement.' " The AAC chairman said he did not think the people would ever accept Buti back. Residents were furious about his meeting with Mandela, who they regard as a savior.

Brits Township

Phillip van Niekerk Reports on page 5 that whites have for 25 years bought property in Elandsrand on the understanding that a ramshackle Brits township would be moved one day. Only last year, the 15,000 strong community was told it would have to move. However, they are resisting. The government is therefore caught between militant residents on one side and radical rightwing whites on the other. Large employer groups have intervened on the side of the residents. The township's friendly spirit is one reason the residents resist the move so fiercely. Despite the fact that the large employer groups have asked the government to halt the move, the government faces a strong rightwing backlash if they fail to force the move.

Union Battles

In a lengthy article on pages 6 and 7, Steven Friedman says that the May Day demonstration showed that a major battle was shaping up between the Inkatha-backed United Workers Union of South Africa and the Congress of South African Trade, unions which are generally categorized as being "popularist" or "workerist" respectively, with the latter being more militant. The message of May Day was that both were alive but does not say which is dominating. The outcome of the battle "could well shape our future for it will determine whether the resistance — and hence the society which emerges after apartheid — will be dominated by a concern for democracy, negotiation, and the organised strength of ordinary men and women,or by a battle to replace the present white elite with a black one."

People's Courts, Committees

Sefako Nyaka reports on page 9 on the formation of street committees in Mamelodi while Peter Honey reports on Mamelodi people's courts. Street committees were formed to take care of problems within their areas and to serve as representatives to higher committees which form the infrastructure providing independent governance of the townships. People's courts try offenders of various types of crimes. Both admittedly have been involved in instances where people have been punished for things without proper representation, but sources say that both attempt to give a fair hearing to people charged with crimes. For the people's courts there is even an appeals court which meets monthly to review people's courts decisions. The goal, according to one Mamelodi Civic Association official, is to " 'break away totally from government structures. The government must become irrelevant to their lives.' " He also said that at this juncture, the movement needs to make contact with whites to break down their confidence in the government and to isolate it so that it cannot continue to govern.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Warns of 'Explosion' in Southern Africa

MB101213 Dakar PANA in English 1019 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Lusaka, 10 May (ZANA/PANA) — Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda yesterday's expressed grave concern at the West's failure to help (?prevent a) racial explosion in South Africa. Speaking a working breakfast he hosted for president of the Bahamas-based Equator Bank Mr Niles Helmboldt at State House, Dr Kaunda said the increased support for the racist Pretoria regime by the United States and Britian, and more recently France and West Germany, could only harden positions between the white minority and the black majority, thus raising the chances of a racial explosion in the country. He said it was disappointing that the West had failed to heed Zambia's advice on the right course of intervention to take if they were to help resolve the South African conflict. The attitude was not, however, new. Zambia's warning of a Zimbabwean war of independence if the West failed to stop UDI [Unilateral Declaration of Independence] fell on deaf ears resulting in the liberation war that brought the current government into power, he said.

The president warned that the patience of the black majority under apartheid rule had been exhausted, bringing it closer to a bloody racial confrontation with the ruling white minority regime. Sooner rather than later we will be facing this explosion unless something strong is done, Dr Kaunda said. The question was no longer if but when the confrontation would break unless the United States and the leading European powers took very decisive action against South Africa, President Kaunda said.

He said Zambia's concern in South Africa was out of both moral conviction and a vested interest in the situation. Dr Kaunda expressed the fear that the whole southern African region would be engulfed in the explosion when it did occur, and added that Western investment in the region would in the conflict also go up in flames.

Defends Cabinet Reshuffle

MB101235 Dakar PANA in English 1030 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Lusaka, 10 May (ZANA/PANA) — The recent reshuffle of key personnel in the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Zambia was not designed to facilitate a drift away from the auction system, Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda said yesterday. Speaking when he hosted a working breakfast for Equator Bank President Niles Helmboldt at State House, Dr Kaunda said he was aware the changes stirred some anxiety in Western financial circles. Zambia was, however, eager to assure Western financiers that the changes were part of an effort to make greater sense of the auction system.

Dr Kaunda said while the old team had done commendable work in establishing the system, it had failed to raise the kwacha to its real value against the United States dollar and other world currencies. The steep depreciation in the value of the kwacha since the inception of the auction system last October had resulted in a severe drop in the quality of Zambian life causing grave concern in the party and government, he said.

[Words indistinct] in Western capitals had expressed concern at the appointment of apparent socialists to key positions in the national economy, the state was believed to be liberalising through the auction system. We did this out of the conviction that it was the right thing to do. We are still convinced this was the right thing to do, the president said.

But for all the difficulties the currency auction system had created, it was proving an effective tool in Zambia's effort towards economic recovery. It had dealt a deep blow to the black marketeering in which unscrupulous businessmen had made hyper-profits through the exploitation of a helpless public. It had also ridden the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Bank of Zambia of the corruption that had made economic recovery through the pre-auction system difficult. We think that to a very large extent we have overcome that with the auction system, President Kaunda said. Mr Kaunda said Zambia would stick with the system despite the problems it may have created.

Meanwhile, Bank of Zambia sources today told ZANA the value of the kwacha against the United States dollar had dropped by about 160 per cent since the inception of the auction system last October. In reply, Mr Helmboldt, whose bank runs operations throughout the SADCC countries, said the establishment of the auction system had raised Western investors confidence in Zambia. He said Zambia's courage and innovativeness in implementing the auction was now being cited as the kind of action other African states could take to rise above their current economic difficulties. Mr Helmboldt said his bank was pleased with business developments in the country, despite the economic difficulties it was facing. He was accompanied to state house by Lusaka-based managing director for Equator advisory services Mr Tom Westcoat. Equator advisory services is a subsidiary of the Bahamas based Equator Bank.

Kaunda Asks Support for Mozambican Refugees

MB111148 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] President Kaunda has called on poeple in the Eastern Province to continue keeping [as heard] Mozambican refugees running away from their country because of the civil war fanned by the racist South African regime. He pointed out that Mozambicans run away from their country not because they desire to be refugees but because of the confusion that has risen due to racist

South African machinations to try and remove their legitimate Frelimo government. The president was speaking shortly after arriving in Chipata to open the 60th provincial party conference at the Chipata training college.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Returns From Malawi Visit 9 May

MB091644 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, who has been visiting Malawi, returned home this afternoon. While in Malawi, Comrade Mugabe toured several agricultural projects, including the (Churo) tea estate and the fisheries complex near Lake Malawi.

In a joint statement today, the two countries called for the immediate abolition of apartheid in South Africa. The statement, released at the end of Comrade Mugabe's 4-day visit, noted that apartheid is the root cause of instability in southern Africa, and also called for the immediate implementation of UN Resolution 435 on Namibia's independence. Both Zimbabwe and Malawi reaffirmed their moral, diplomatic, and political support for the people of Namibia in their struggle for self-determination. The communique reiterated the two countries' support for the Non-aligned Movement. The Malawian president, Dr Kamuzu Banda, wished the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, success in hosting and chairing the movement's forthcoming summit in Harare.

Comrade Mugabe was accompanied on the visit to Malawi by several party officials and government ministers.

Mugabe Warns Against Tribal Divisive Elements

MB110907 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] The first secretary and president of ZANU-PF, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has warned party members against (division along) tribal lines. He was speaking at an election victory celebration rally in Masvingo yesterday. He said he is aware of such divisive elements and warned that the party will not tolerate them. Comrade Mugabe said that there is no one more important than the party whose primacy should be observed from the leadership down to the ordinary members. He assured the nation that there are adequate food supplies to feed everyone despite the drought which has affected some parts of the country. He said an assessment for deserving cases is currently under way and food for work programs will soon be introduced in drought stricken areas in Masvingo, Matebele, and North and South Provinces.

Condemns 'Flare-up' of Animosities

MB110901 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1835 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Masvingo, May 10, SAPA — The gravity of the recent flare-up of tribal animosities within Zimbabwe's ruling ZANU/(PF) was re-emphasised in Masvingo today when the prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, warned would-be "sectional leaders" they faced his wrath. Mr Mugabe received an enthusiastic reception at a rally in the heart of the home territory of the Karanga sub-section of Zimbabwe's majority Shona tribe. But his warning may have been intended for the ears of the ZANU/(PF) Masvingo Provincial chairman, Mr Eddison Zvobgo, and other Karanga personalities thought to be falling from his favour. Mr Mugabe stressed his determination to build a Zimbabwe which was above tribalism. Anyone who thought he was in ZANU/(PF) to lead a particular tribal group would not be tolerated, he said. The party, which was committed to Marxist-Leninist ideology, would "crush" the offender.

Mr Zvobgo and his close associate, Mr Byron Hove, were at the centre of a recent controversy in parliament when the minister of transport, Dr Herbert Ushewokunze, who is a Zezuru like Mr Mugabe, claimed Karangas were plotting his political assassination. Dr Ushewokunze had been accused by Mr Hove of "collaborating" with the perpetrators of a R600,000 railway housing fraud exposed by a parliamentary committee. In the aftermath Mr Mugabe axed Dr Ushewokunze from his prestigious position in the elite Politburo, while retaining him as transport minister. Mr Hove, however, was ordered to resign from parliament.

The internal row between the Karangas and Zezurus has been among the factors which have stalemated the unity talks between ZANU (PF) and Mr Joshua Nkomo's ZAPU, which is supported in Matabeleland — also along tribal lines.

Todays's Masvingo Rally was to celebrate Mr Mugabe's victory in the July 1985 general election when ZANU (PF) took 99.9 per cent of the votes in the Karanga-dominated Masvingo Province (once a stronghold of Mr Mugabe's rival, the founder of ZANU, the Rev Ndabaning Sithole, now in exile).

Security Forces Continue Crackdown on Dissidents

MB101225 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1100 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Security forces in Zimbabwe are continuing their crackdown on antigovernment elements. A police spokesman in Bulawayo says a man described as a dissident has been killed in a gun battle in the Plumtree area close to the Botswana border. He says three other people managed to escape. The dead man is reported to be the 12th insurgent to be killed in that area this year.

Zimbabwe's Matabeleland Province has been plagued by rebel activity since shortly after the country's independence 6 years ago. Much of the problem has been blamed on supporters of opposition leader, Joshua Nkomo, and the continuing conflict is likely to interfere with unity talks between Mr Nkomo and Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's party, currently underway.